WINNING BATTLES, BUT LOSING WAR, PG 9

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Celebrity pg 33

With friends like these

Wasn't time for a wash and colour

COURT A prosecutor says a man accused of sneakily snipping a fellow bus passenger's hair as he sat behind her New Year's Eve is a suspect in a number of similar incidents in Portland, Ore.

Jared Weston Walter pleaded not guilty Monday in Multnomah County Circuit Court to third-degree robbery, interfering with public transit, second-degree disorderly conduct and harassment.

During the hearing, deputy district attorney Chuck French said the 22-year-old is a suspect in other incidents in which women riders have either had their hair cut or glued on area buses. TriMet transit spokeswoman Bekki Witt says three such cases have been reported in recent weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Vancouver **Games**

Countdown to 2010

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.
• Today — Bilodeau brings experience to moguls, page 14
• Olympics on the cheap, page 24

Travel pg 23

Pirates invade Tampa Bay

On the web
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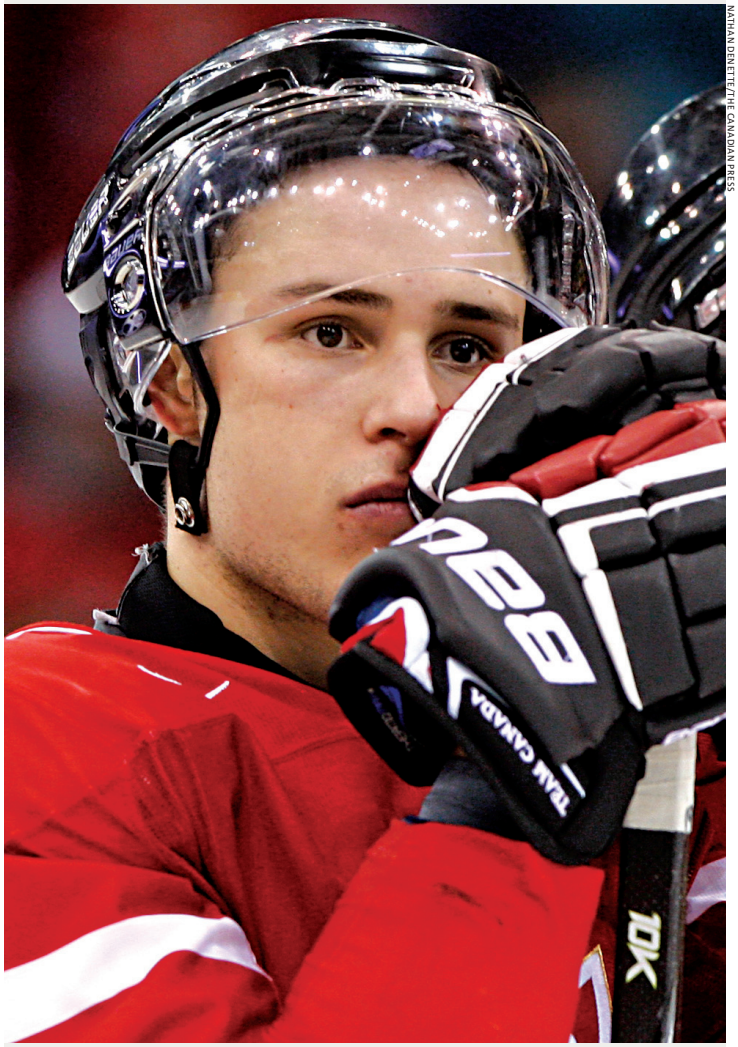
Hockey **U.S. ends Canadian gold rush**



NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada's Stefan Della Rovere ponders his team's 6-5 overtime loss to Team USA last night at the world junior hockey championship in Saskatoon. The U.S. stopped Canada's world junior gold-medal winning streak at five games. More coverage, page 13.

Staying vigilant

Controversial scanners to be installed at Canadian airports

Travellers may have to bare it all now that the government has announced plans to install dozens of scanners that can peer through clothing at airports across Canada.

An airport watch system will also be set up to look for suspicious passengers and tab them for further screening.

"We've got to stay ahead of the terrorist elements," Transport Minister John Baird said yesterday in announcing plans to buy 44 of the $250,000 machines.

The announcement was part of an international response to a Christmas Day attempt by a Nigerian man to blow up a jetliner over Michigan by igniting explosives sewn into his underwear.

"We must remain vigilant," Baird said.

The United States has already demanded tighter screening of passengers from 14 countries, including Nigeria. Canada has banned certain types of carry-on bags for U.S.-bound air passengers.

Baird and Rob Merrifield, minister of state for transport, said the scanners will only be used for passengers singled out for secondary screening. And people who don't want to go through the machines can choose to be frisked instead.

The scanners will first be installed in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa and Halifax and will all be in place by spring. The machines produce a three-dimensional outline of a person's naked body, allowing screening officers to see whether someone is carrying plastic explosives or other dangerous items.

THE CANADIAN PRESS
MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 8

System exposed

• U.S. President Barack Obama says the foiled Christmas Day airliner attack exposed "a potentially disastrous" security failure in which the U.S. intelligence community had enough information to connect the dots ahead of time but did not. Obama spoke after a White House meeting yesterday with high-ranking government officials charged with carrying out two reviews.

Wave of obesity rolling across continent: Report

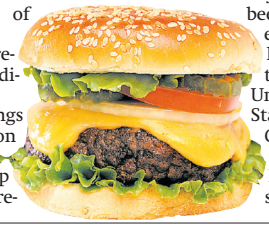
Obesity has surpassed smoking as North America's greatest health risk, a U.S. study and Canadian experts say.

A growing wave of obesity that has rolled across the continent over the past 15 years, coupled with a reduction in smoking, has swept tobacco from its perch as the top contributor to combined death and disease measures in the two nations.

By 2008, the numbers for obesity had caught up to and slightly surpassed smoking, said lead author Haomiao Jia, a Columbia University biostatistics expert.

"It's getting worse and worse each year."

The study, which looked at data from more than 3.5 million Americans between 1993 and 2008, was published in the February issue of American Journal of Preventive Medicine.



The findings are based on U.S. statistics, but top Canadian researchers say they would apply here.

"Our obesity rates have been going up every bit as high as those in the United States," said Canadian Institutes of Health Research scientist Robert Ross.

The study should act as a "wake-up call" for Canadian health officials to begin to seriously address the obesity crisis, he said.

While researchers found smoking still kills far more people than obesity, its toll in terms of life years lost remained relatively stable between 1993 and 2008.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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For full rules and how to enter, visit www.nissan.ca/holidaykickoff. Contest closes January 10, 2010. Three (3) Grand Prizes available to be won, each consisting of a trip for two (2) people to 2010 Pro Bowl and Super Bowl XLIV in South Florida. Approximate retail value of each Grand Prize is $10,000.00 (CDN). Random draw will be held on January 12, 2010 in Mississauga, ON. Must be a resident of Canada (excluding Québec), over age of majority. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Correct answer to mathematical skill testing question required. Limit of one (1) entry per person/household. (c) 2009 NFL Ventures LP. Team names/logos are trademarks of the teams indicated. All other NFL-related trademarks are trademarks of the National Football League. ‡0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on 2010 Altima Sedan (excluding Hybrid), Rogue and Sentra models. Finance Example for a 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00): $25,098 MSRP, financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $558.28 per month with $5,000 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $25,098. Up to $84 PPSA, $1,400 freight and PDE, license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between January 5th and January 10th, 2010. †Lease Examples: $25,098/$24,698/$15,198 MSRP for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00)/2010 Rogue FWD S (W6RG10 AA00)/2010 Sentra (C4LG50 AA00) at 2.9%/1.9%/4.9% lease rate for a 48/36/60 month term. Monthly payment is $289/$269/$179 with $3,475/$3,600/$1,695 down payment, $0/$0/$0 security deposit. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may lease for less. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $17,371/$13,300/$12,449. Lease and finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between January 5th and January 10th, 2010. ††MSRP for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00), CVT transmission/2010 Rogue FWD S (W6RG10 AA00), CVT transmission/2010 Sentra (C4LG50 AA00), manual transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less. ▲Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions - use for comparison only. ▲▲Models shown $31,898 MSRP for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 3.5 SR (T4SG10 AA00), CVT transmission/$29,298 MSRP for a new 2010 Rogue SL AWD (Y6SG10 AA00), CVT transmission/$23,098 MSRP for a new 2010 Sentra 2.0 SL (C4TG10 AA00), CVT transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailer may sell for less. [1]The Nissan Altima received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among midsize cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study®. Study based on responses from 80,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. [2]The 2010 Rogue is winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. [3]The 2009 Rogue is winner of ALG Residual Value Award - CUV Segment. ‡Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). U.S. model tested. Please see www.safercar.gov for up to date information. ▪For a limited time receive up to $1,000 Grad discount available on select models when leasing or financing a new 2009 or 2010 Nissan. See retailer for complete Grad program details.

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Local

Libraries get online with Wi-Fi

All Toronto public libraries now have free Wi-Fi Internet access. City librarian Jane Pyper, left, said in a statement the wireless access will let anyone with a laptop or smartphone surf at their leisure in a library. The wireless connection is one of the many new improvements the Toronto Public Library plans to roll out this year to improve access to technology and online services. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment

Steve Collins writes about the modern Canadian relationship in Relating.

News in brief

ELECTRICITY Stray electrical voltage from an underground electrical cable has shocked a dog and an animal care worker, this time on Danforth Avenue near Jones Avenue. Neither the dog nor the man who came to help suffered serious injury, according to Tanya Bruckmueller of Toronto Hydro, although both were shocked. The incident is a reminder of a string of incidents a year ago, in which electricity leaking from underground facilities shocked both people and animals across the city.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Vancouver Whitecaps owner Bob Lenarduzzi joins It's Called Football for part 1 of its year in review and Spin-Doctor suggests an afternoon on Oprah's couch to polish Tiger Woods' image in 2010.

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Second blue bin on horizon?

Councillors complain recycling rules unclear and bags left curbside

Toronto needs to do a better job of helping residents recycle, according to the public works committee.

The city's waste protocol allows people to put out excess recycling occasionally — after the blue bin is full — in clear or blue translucent bags, especially after holidays. But if that becomes a regular practice, the city wants residents to get a free second or larger bin.

"I think our primary goal is always to have all recyclables within a blue container," solid waste general manager Geoff Rathbone said yesterday, responding to councillors' complaints that the rules are unclear and residents are finding that bags of recyclables are being left at the curb uncollected.

"We don't want to leave recyclables behind," said Coun. Case Ootes, who raised the issue at the committee's meeting. "If they are left behind on the curb, they're going to end up in the garbage. We all know that."

Rathbone said the city relies on its collection truck drivers to identify households that are putting out bags of recyclables time after time.

> **"We don't want to leave recyclables behind. If they are left behind on the curb, they're going to end up in the garbage. We all know that."** Coun. Case Ootes

"Our operators are instructed to collect the occasional and seasonal excess material, but they're also instructed to notify us when they believe there is a chronic situation where the bin is undersized," Rathbone said.

The aim is to contact such homeowners and urge them to upgrade to a second bin or a larger one, he said.

Coun. Cesar Palacio asked how officials distinguish between chronic offenders and households that occasionally need some excess recycling picked up.

Putting out excess bags for months would be chronic, he replied; an extra bag around the holidays would be occasional, "and then there are judgment calls in between."

Palacio said he has called the solid waste division to complain about bags of recycling being left behind at his own home about half a dozen times in the past two years. "It thoroughly annoyed me," he said.

At Coun. Shelley Carroll's urging, the committee asked staff to come up with a better communication strategy. She suspects residents are getting somewhat different answers on recycling issues depending on whether they check with a councillor's office, the 311 information hotline or the city website. Even 311 operators would be unlikely to give consistent answers, she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

An early morning fire yesterday at 161 Wheeler Ave. destroyed the house and heavily damaged homes on either side. Toronto building inspector Orrville Grant, left, and firefighter Dan Speight inspect the damage.

Blaze guts house under renovation

The Ontario Fire Marshal's office has begun its investigation into the $1.5-million fire that gutted one home and damaged two adjacent ones in the Beach early yesterday.

The fire, which started just before midnight Monday, started at 161 Wheeler Ave., near Kingston Road and Woodbine Avenue. Renovation work was going on at the house that was unoccupied when the fire broke out. According to city records no building permits were issued for the property, but some work does not require a permit.

Toronto fire officials said the fire spread to the two other homes very quickly. A couple and their five-year-old child who lived in the house north of the fire escaped safely. According to Toronto Fire Capt. Mike Strapko "the husband smelled smoke and saw a big orange glow" coming from next door. He quickly got his wife and child out before the flames spread to their house.

"We woke up and the house was totally engulfed in flames," said a neighbour who didn't want his name used. He said the house was bought recently, was unoccupied and workmen were in there frequently. He described the house as "a teardown" — the kind of house someone would buy to replace it with another home. The neighbour woke up just before midnight and smelled smoke and saw the flames.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Investigation

- The cause of the fire remains unknown, said investigator Mike Stewart. And it will be at least a couple days before the investigation turns up anything, he said.

Politicians start circling for seat

LEGISLATURE Ontario's political parties are lining up their candidates for a still uncalled Toronto byelection to replace former deputy premier George Smitherman.

The New Democratic candidate will be Cathy Crowe, a nurse and affordable housing activist who lives and works in the Toronto Centre riding.

Glen Murray

Crowe is the author of Dying For A Home, and was the subject of the 2002 documentary Street Nurse.

Former Winnipeg mayor Glen Murray is expected to win the Liberal nomination for the Toronto Centre byelection today.

Murray has the support of some key Liberals, including Smitherman, who officially resigned as a member of the legislature last weekend to clear the way for his bid to become mayor of Toronto.

The Progressive Conservatives plan to nominate their candidate for the Toronto Centre byelection later this month.

Premier Dalton McGuinty is expected to call the byelection shortly, although he can wait six months before he must schedule the vote.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sharing is good, but not in hospital

Sharing a hospital room increases your risk of picking up an infection during your stay, a new study shows. The work, by researchers from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., found that each new roommate raised a patient's risk of picking up an infection in hospital by about 10 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TTC standardizes streetcars

Switch to smaller gauge should save money in the long run

It's one more stop on the road to conformity.

Among the features that distinguish Toronto's streetcars from those in other cities is the track gauge. TTC cars run on a wider gauge — that's the distance between the inner edges of the two parallel rails.

Now, more than a century after Toronto's first street rails were installed, there's change afoot: The TTC has agreed its new Transit City lines will conform to the worldwide standard established in England in 1845, which is about six centimetres narrower than the existing 1.5 metres.

The TTC and Metrolinx, the provincial agency that is funding the Transit City lines on Finch, Sheppard and Eglinton, want to make sure the new lines are compatible with any other light rail transit (LRT) that might be built in the province in the future. Mississauga, Hamilton, Ottawa and Waterloo have all expressed an interest in LRT, although none is committed.

There are no plans yet to physically link regional systems to the TTC's Transit City lines, but converting to the standardized gauge could help the province get a better price on streetcars, said Metrolinx vice-president John Howe.

"What we want to do is remove as much vehicle customization as possible, because we think we can achieve better value for the taxpayer by taking an international off-the-shelf standard design, basically the same proven LRT vehicles that are used elsewhere in Canada, the U.S. and Europe," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Circus school **Flying high**

ROGER CULLMAN/FOR METRO TORONTO

Emma Stones, 16, from Oshawa, Ont., displays aerial prowess at Zero Gravity Circus Space. She joined Montreal's National Circus School, which is recruiting for the next generation of circus artists and are holding auditions in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal for its training programs combined with academic studies. Applications are open until Jan. 15. Details at nationalcircusschool.ca

News in brief

TRIAL A Mississauga man found dead after a fire in his apartment was killed before the blaze began, Crown prosecutor Steve Sherriff told jurors at a murder trial yesterday in a Brampton courtroom. In his opening address, Sherriff said the fire was deliberately set in the assisted-living Dundas Street apartment to "cover up a murder." Jody Vanderburg, 36, has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in the Feb. 22, 2008 slaying of Randall Hill, 40. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Don Jail inmates should be moved: NDP

DEATHS The provincial government must move as many inmates out of Toronto's Don Jail as it can to avoid the kind of bloodshed that's resulted in two recent deaths at the notorious facility, an opposition party said yesterday.

Kevon Phillip, 24, was slain over the weekend, making him the second inmate to be killed in the jail in two months.

The jail is "one grim ugly place" that's outdated, overcrowded and hard to manage, said New Democrat Peter Tabuns, whose Toronto riding includes the jail.

"The overcrowding is dangerous and obviously results in people being killed."
Peter Tabuns, MPP

Things haven't improved since he toured the jail more than a decade ago, and the government must move quickly to end the dangerous conditions that are leading to violence, he added.

"I think it would make sense for them to act very quickly to provide alternative facilities. The overcrowding is dangerous and obviously results in people being killed."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cancun	Travel Jan 10 - Jan 17/ts	$49 + taxes & fees $272
Panama City	Travel Jan 9 - Jan 16/wg	$95 + taxes & fees $220
Antigua	Travel Jan 10 - Jan 17/c6	$99 + taxes & fees $220
Cayo Coco	Travel Jan 10 - Jan 17/5g	$99 + taxes & fees $204
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Puerto Vallarta	Travel Jan 11 - Jan 18/5g	$99 + taxes & fees $272
St Lucia	Travel Jan 10 - Jan 17/ts	$99 + taxes & fees $233
Margarita Island	Travel Jan 12 - Jan 19/c6	$169 + taxes & fees $318
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Vacations

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Hospitality Suite Resort + taxes & fees $130
Departs Jan 25/ggv/nw.

Chicago Air + 3 Nights 4-Star $479
Sheraton Chicago + taxes & fees $98
Departs Jan 21/ggv/aa. ADD Chicago City pass for $79.

Boston Air + 3 Nights 4-Star $499
Fairmont Copley Plaza + taxes & fees $98
Departs Jan 21/ggv/aa. ADD Boston hop-on hop-off tour for $38.

Myrtle Beach Air + 4 Nights $529
Sheraton Myrtle Beach + taxes & fees $123
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New Orleans Mardi Gras
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Cruise Vacations

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CRUISE roundtrip Miami and visit Key West & Grand Cayman. Sails Feb 1/cel.

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Celebrity Millennium + taxes & fees $74
CRUISE roundtrip San Juan and visit Tortola, St Maarten, St Lucia, Barbados, Grenada, Aruba & Curacao. Sails Feb 12/cel.

Eastern Caribbean
Air + 7-Night Cruise $765
Carnival Liberty + taxes & fees $325
INCLUDES air to Fort Lauderdale, cruise and transfers. CRUISE roundtrip Miami and visit Half Moon Cay, St Thomas, San Juan & Grand Turk. Departs Jan 23/crv/ts.

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Air + 7-Night Cruise $1189
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Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star $425
Mercure Playa de Oro + taxes & fees $210
Departs Jan 18/swg/wg.

Puerto Vallarta 7 Nights 4-Star $468
Holiday Inn + taxes & fees $272
Departs Jan 11/vat/5g.

Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star $478
Barceló Costa Cancun + taxes & fees $272
Departs Jan 10/vat/ts.

Punta Cana 7 Nights 4-Star $478
Natura Park Beach Resort and Spa + taxes & fees $321
Departs Jan 10/sgn/5g.

Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4-Star $557
Ocean Maya + taxes & fees $272
Departs Jan 10/no/ts.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star $665
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Hamilton mosque attacked
The Hamilton police arson and hate crimes units are investigating after a Molotov cocktail was thrown into a mosque. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police look into previous shooting of murder victim

CRIME Last month, Kenneth Mark testified at the trial of a 16-year-old accused of trying to kill him. In mid-December, the teen was acquitted. Twelve days later, Mark was fatally shot in the back of the head outside a Junction pizzeria.

Homicide detectives are now exploring whether the two attacks on Mark's life are linked.

Suspects
- Police say the murder investigation is proceeding well, but they are not naming any suspects.

The slain 29-year-old's friends and family think they are.

Mark was known to confront thugs living in the area. Before the first attack, he had a showdown with a neighbourhood teen who was rumoured to be carrying guns.

It was around 11 on a September night in 2008. Mark was standing outside a neighbour's apartment when he heard footsteps coming up behind him. As he turned his head, he saw two men wearing baggy clothes and hooded sweaters. Robb said both were masked, but court heard conflicting reports.

Mark said he never saw the gun, just the flash.

He was hit with birdshot in the neck, shoulders and side of his face. He collapsed, then ran for his life. The neighbour phoned 911.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Runners may be worse than heels, study suggests

HEALTH Everyone knows you shouldn't run in high heels. And running barefoot is not such a great idea, either.

But new research shows running shoes — many of them designed and marketed as able to absorb pressure on the joints when running — stress and strain your knees, ankles and hips more than running barefoot.

Researchers measured the strain placed on the joints in 68 participants, who ran on a treadmill both barefoot and in a simple runner, the Brooks Adrenaline.

They found that running in running shoes may actually be harder on your body than walking in two-inch heels. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mammoliti declares

Councillor enters mayoral race, Ootes bows out

Longtime Toronto councillor Case Ootes is calling it quits.

Ootes, elected seven times to East York, Metro and Toronto city councils, served as deputy mayor under Mel Lastman. He informed fellow councillors and Mayor David Miller of his decision yesterday via email.

"Only those of us who have had the good fortune to hold the office of Toronto city councillor can appreciate the satisfaction of having the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people, of debating ideas, and yes, the camaraderie of belonging to an exclusive group of individuals with great responsibility," he wrote.

So far, Kyle Rae is the only other councillor who has announced a retirement from politics. Fourteen have already registered to run.

Giorgio Mammoliti, the brash councillor who once memorably removed his shirt in the council chamber to protest making the beach at Hanlan's Point clothing-optional, made his entry into the mayor's race official yesterday.

Mammoliti, 48, who has 15 years' experience in municipal politics, promised "to tame the Godzilla" — a reference to the city's ballooning budget. He offered few specifics, other than to say "everything would be on the table" — meaning potential cuts in grants to community groups, starting a casino or lottery or both, trimming the workforce and outsourcing services such as garbage collection. And he promised to get tough with unions.

Mammoliti took a veiled shot at other candidates, saying he won't be linked to any political party and promising to drop his current membership in the Liberal party. In the early 1990s, Mammoliti served as an MPP in the NDP government at Queen's Park.

Fellow contender Rocco Rossi has promised to set an example by cutting the mayor's $167,000 salary by 10 per cent, but Mammoliti refused to follow suit. The city "has 50,000 employees, and for some reason, for the last eight years or so, we have been picking on 44 employees who make the policy, who work 24 hours a day," he said. "If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys."

Councillors have been criticized for not debating their 2.42 per cent cost-of-living increase last year, while salaries of non-union employees were frozen.

Councillor Michael Walker plans to raise the issue at council again this month.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti files his papers to run for mayor. The former NDP MPP says he's ready to clean up Toronto.

The candidates

Declared
- Rocco Rossi
- Giorgio Mammoliti

Expected
- George Smitherman
- John Tory
- Joe Pantalone
- Shelley Carroll
- Adam Giambrone

Beach weather **Brrrrrrrr**

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It was cold and grey near the Leuty Street Life Guard station in the Beach yesterday morning. Temperatures reached a low of -11 C, -20 C with the wind chill.

Teachers leads group buying part of AIG's business

MONEY The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, which leads an investor group set to buy American International Group Inc.'s Canadian mortgage insurance business, says the acquisition enhances the fund's investment portfolio "beautifully."

Teachers' spokeswoman Deborah Allan said yesterday that AIG's United Guaranty Mortgage Insurance Company is primed to grow its market position, making the deal an attractive opportunity for the pension fund.

"This fits beautifully into our direct investment portfolio," she said. "Canadian mortgage insurance is a market that we're interested in. It's a niche market, it's a growing industry and we plan to grow the business over the coming months."

Allan said the deal is expected to close later this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AGO

Woman hopes to reach South Pole on solo trek by Jan. 14

Sudbury, Ont., adventurer Meagan McGrath hopes to complete her solo trek to the South Pole by the middle of the month. On her latest audio blog on the Science North website, McGrath says she'd like to reach her goal by Jan. 14, but harsh weather conditions and terrain may set her back a bit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

PM doesn't want election: Sources

Forget all that speculation about a spring election. Stephen Harper has no intention of calling an election or engineering the defeat of his minority government any time soon, say insiders close to the prime minister. "The chances of hell freezing over in March are better than us doing something to trigger an election," one source said flatly. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Terror scare spurred probe

U.S. feared Canadian border threat to Obama inauguration

Canadian officials were involved in investigating what was thought to be a credible threat that Somali extremists would be entering the United States from Canada to carry out a bomb plot during the presidential inauguration in January 2009.

The revelation about the perceived threat came in a New York Times Magazine article and RCMP confirmed yesterday that they assisted the U.S. authorities' investigation.

"Personnel from the RCMP National Security Program worked closely with their U.S. counterparts to investigate what initially appeared to be a credible threat," the RCMP said in a statement.

For some young Somali-Canadians, the report sheds light on why so many of them say they were interrogated at the border that day one year ago.

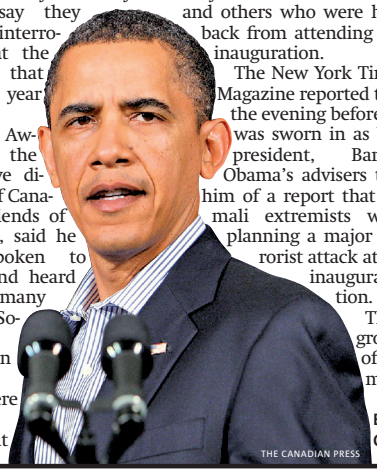
Farah Awmore Somali-Canadian youth who were interrogated at length at the border, contacted by the RCMP when they returned to Canada, and others who were held back from attending the inauguration.

The New York Times Magazine reported that the evening before he was sworn in as U.S. president, Barack Obama's advisers told him of a report that Somali extremists were planning a major terrorist attack at his inauguration.

The group of Somali terrorists was purported to be coming across the border from Canada to detonate explosives.

The tip turned out to be false. In a tactic known as a "poison pen," one group of radicals — in this case some Somali extremists — had planted false information about a rival group, the magazine reported.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Barack Obama

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Somalia

- Suicide bombings, unheard of in Somalia before 2007, have become increasingly frequent and the lawlessness has raised concerns that al-Qaida is trying to gain a foothold in the Horn of Africa.

Homemade device behind London bomb scare: Police

INVESTIGATION A homemade device was responsible for a bomb scare that left a neighbourhood in London, Ont., on tenterhooks and forced about 80 people from their homes.

The evacuation order for 20 homes ended early yesterday, but police had to obtain a search warrant to continue their investigation and determine if charges were warranted.

Police Chief Murray Faulkner said the device at the centre of the incident was homemade, but would not say much more about it.

The drama began just before 7 a.m. Monday when police arrived at the home on a medical call and found something suspicious.

A 17-year-old male was taken to hospital with an undisclosed injury or ailment.

Police have said the device wasn't tied to any criminal activity like a drug lab.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife

Backed-up airport terminals could mean big bucks for savvy businesses, experts say. Scan this code for the full story.

News in brief

ALBERTA Two disaffected Alberta Tories say members of Premier Ed Stelmach's caucus were told to screen delegates who voted on his leadership in November to make sure the voters were behind his leadership. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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N.S. ship repair outfit gets $8.8M government loan
The Nova Scotia government is giving an $8.8-million loan to upgrade an Irving-owned ship repair business in Shelburne. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Park tourism worries conservation groups

Conservationists are worried a push by the federal government to attract more city slickers to Rocky Mountain national parks will hurt the wildlife and fragile ecosystems the parks were created to protect.

Parks Canada released management plans last fall that propose non-traditional activities to lure more visitors. Some of the ideas include a new gondola in Banff, dogsled rides in Jasper, a teepee campground in Waterton and more playgrounds for children.

But there are few details on how the parks would make sure that extra visitors wouldn't lead to more deaths of wild animals or the destruction of important habitat, says Nigel Douglas of the Alberta Wilderness Association.

"The draft plan proposes increasing visitor numbers without any apparent attempt to emphasize principles that protect the highly valued ecosystems within a national park that must have priority over all other activities," Douglas says. "It reads like a plan for a holiday resort, not a national park."

The mountain parks include Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, Yoho, Glacier, Mount Revelstoke and Waterton.

The tone of the proposed management plans, which will govern the way the parks are run for the next 10 to 15 years, is a marked departure from the wording of the 2001 Canada National Parks Act, which states that maintaining and restoring natural resources in the parks should be the federal government's priority, Douglas says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Why attract more visitors?

- Attendance numbers at national parks are down across the country compared with peak rates in the 1980s and 1990s. Parks Canada figures show an overall attendance drop of nine per cent between 2007 and 2009.
- Part of the decline can be chalked up to Canada's recent economic woes, but it's also Canada's demographics that are changing. About eight out of 10 Canadians now live in urban areas, and about 20 per cent of those people are recent immigrants. Many of them have never gone camping or haven't visited a national park or historic site.

Second B.C. child attacked by cougar

ATTACK A B.C. mother who fended off a cougar attacking her seven-year-old son says her boy is recovering well but doesn't want anyone discussing the ordeal in front of him.

Mary Metzler said her son, David Metzler Jr., needed 22 stitches to close a gash on his head after the cougar pounced on him.

Metzler said her boy has puncture wounds on his back and that his right eye was swollen shut immediately after the attack on New Year's Eve morning in the tiny central B.C. community of Danskin.

Metzler heard her son's terrifying screams while she was volunteering to clean her kids' school during the winter break.

"When I opened the door and stepped out (the cougar) looked up at me and when it looked up it had Davie's tuque in its mouth," she said. "I walked up to it with my scrub rag and smacked it in the face."

Metzler's son was the second child in the province to be attacked by a cougar in less than a week. Just two days after the incident in Danskin, another boy was attacked by a cougar, in the southern B.C. community of Boston Bar.

Austin Forman, 11, was saved from a lunging cougar by the family's golden retriever. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUBMITTED PHOTO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Austin Forman, 11, shown in a family handout photo, was one of two children attacked by a cougar in less than a week in B.C.

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The Hidden Cost of Tickets and Accidents

Your Driving Record Impacts Your Your Car Insurance Rate

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Between paying fines, insurance deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses, most people understand tickets and accidents can be costly. What many people DON'T know is that there is usually another "hidden" cost which is just around the corner. It comes in the form of higher insurance rates. This is because insurance companies look at your driving record and insurance history, including any tickets or accidents you've had, as a key factor in setting their rates. And this is why drivers with cleaner driving records, on average, find they are able to obtain lower insurance rates.

Does This Mean I'm Doomed To Pay A Bundle?

NO! For the driver with tickets and accidents, there is good news and hope of lowering your rate. In fact, there are some drivers with tickets or accidents that are actually paying LESS than similar drivers with clean driving records. Certain insurance companies actually target this type of risk and have competitive rates. The trick is finding those companies – which is easier than you think... if you know where to look.

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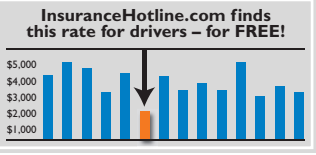

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Suspect turns himself in

Daud Hussein, 24, a suspect in the shooting death of a Windsor, Ont., man turned himself into police yesterday with his lawyer at his side. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An airport security guard records checked luggage at Montreal's Trudeau international airport yesterday. The government announced yesterday it will install scanners that can see through the clothes of travellers in airports across Canada. The scanners will first be installed in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Halifax and will be in place by spring.

Travellers not fazed by airport body scan

New security measures seen as part of flying

News that Ottawa will use high-tech scanners that can see through people's clothes to spot terror threats brought shrugs rather than outrage from travellers yesterday.

"I wish there were other methods that were less invasive, but if it's something they have to do for airport security, I agree with it," said Jennifer Iorio as she waited in the U.S. departure lounge of Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport.

She predicted the security measures would probably add an extra half-hour to the already time-consuming airplane boarding process.

"It's something you have to endure if you have to travel," said the 30-year-old woman, who was travelling to New York before heading to Qatar, where her husband works as an engineer.

Jean Fraysse, a resident of Le Mans in France, said innocent people have nothing to fear with the scanners.

"If a person has nothing to be worried about, I don't see why not — even if it means using an X-ray," Fraysse said as he waited to board a U.S.-bound flight from Montreal.

Andre Riendeau, who splits his time between St-Constant, south of Montreal, and Florida, said he thinks the tougher security is a good idea and he's not worried about delays in his travel.

"I'm retired, so waiting 10 minutes more wouldn't upset me."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flight safety

- The increased security comes after an apparent attempt by a Nigerian man to blow up a jetliner over Michigan by igniting explosives sewn into his underwear.

Chopper crash lawsuit settled

NEWFOUNDLAND The families of passengers who died in the crash of a Sikorsky helicopter off the coast of Newfoundland last year, as well as the sole survivor of the tragedy, have reached a settlement in their lawsuit against the U.S. company.

The families of 15 passengers and the survivor launched a lawsuit last year in a Philadelphia court, alleging that Sikorsky, Keystone Helicopters and their parent company made false claims about the aircraft's safety. Settlement details are said to be confidential.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Analysts questioning scanners' effectiveness

TRAVEL Though it's been tested at just one Canadian airport, the scanner that sees through clothes is already becoming the most controversial security tool in national aviation annals.

First off, there's what one expert calls the machine's obvious "ick factor."

Security analysts and civil rights advocates are also at odds over the scanner's ability to detect deadly weapons and, even if it can, whether improving airport security is the solution when poor intelligence work led to the recent near-disaster over Michigan.

Micheal Vonn of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association says the government has rushed to embrace a completely unproven technology that has trouble detecting plastics, powders and liquids.

"It's a fiasco," she said.

Roch Tasse of the Ottawa-based International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group said, "I think they should fix the problem rather than just use it as a pretext to put more things in place."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hubble sees the universe's baby pictures
The U.S. Hubble Space Telescope has captured the earliest image yet of the universe — just 600 million years after the Big Bang, when the universe was just a toddler. Astronomers yesterday released their most complete picture of the early universe, gazing back as far as possible in time and distance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Sellers hope holy potatoes become hot

Online bidders may now buy two potatoes containing likenesses of crosses in their centres. One was found by an Iowa family and the other by a police detective in Ohio. Jim Gross of Marion, Iowa, says his wife was peeling their potato on New Year's Eve when she found the cross shape. The spud is on sale on EBay, with bids starting at $2 US. Dennis Bort of Brunswick, Ohio, also says he found the cross shape in his potato on Christmas Day. Bort listed his spud for $1,000 US. He hasn't found any bidders yet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winning the battle, losing the war

Grim analysis of Afghanistan conflict concludes that allies are losing

International forces in Afghanistan might have won most of the clashes they fought with insurgents, but they nevertheless have still lost much of the country, a new analysis concludes.

In a grim assessment of the war, the non-partisan Center for Strategic and International Studies finds the U.S. and allied effort waning.

"The U.S. failed to focus on the needs and security of the Afghan people," the report out this week concludes. "It also failed to properly resource the war and to provide effective leadership."

The analysis, based largely on Pentagon and NATO data, finds the Afghan government and outside aid efforts have failed to meet even the basic needs of Afghans.

Afghan forces were simply treated as "adjuncts" rather than as true partners of the International Security Assistance Force, the analysis by the Washington-based think-tank concludes.

"The end result was that the U.S. and its allies won largely meaningless tactical clashes while steadily losing the country and the people," says Anthony Cordesman's report.

"The Taliban and other insurgents were winning the war; they fought to dominate the population and defeat the U.S. and its allies through a war of political attrition."

The report mirrors a similarly bleak assessment delivered to the UN Security Council this week by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. In his statement, Ban argued there was no sign the deteriorating security situation would turn around any time soon.

He cited the flawed elections in August and the impact of Taliban suicide attacks as contributing to the volatile situation.

In its report, the centre argues that coalition forces engaged in a pattern of fighting that inflicted serious civilian casualties and collateral damage. The result contributed to a steady erosion in support from Afghans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Intel overhaul?

- NATO's top intelligence official has ordered significant changes to information-gathering in Afghanistan, saying the U.S. intelligence community is now only "marginally relevant" to the mission there.

132 media workers killed last year

BELGIUM More than 130 media workers were killed in 2009 in their efforts to tell stories from dangerous conflicts, making last year a particularly deadly one, a media safety watchdog said yesterday. A report from the International News Safety Institute said 132 journalists and media staff died on the job in 2009, up from 2008's tally of 109 fatalities. The bulk of those deaths took place in the Philippines, where 31 were killed in a Nov. 23 ambush described as "the bloodiest single event ever for the news media." THE CANADIAN PRESS

China **Ice, ice baby**

NG HAN GUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman slides down the ice at a winter festival in China's Heilongjiang province yesterday.

Palestinians object to Jerusalem project

MIDDLE EAST Israel has approved construction of four new apartment buildings in disputed east Jerusalem, officials said yesterday, fueling tensions with the Palestinians. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem for a future capital and demand all construction there stop before negotiations resume.

The 24-unit project is being developed in an Arab neighbourhood by Irving Moskowitz, an American Jew who has generously funded Jewish settlers determined to cement Israel's hold on contested areas of the holy city.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat condemned the move "in the strongest possible terms." Jerusalem is the most explosive issue between Israel and the Palestinians. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASSER ISHTAYEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad throws a Jewish product into a fire yesterday. Palestinians have launched a boycott of Israeli products made in Jewish settlements.

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SCANLIFE

Trash goes full circle in California as refuse fuels fleet of garbage trucks. Scan this code for the full story.

News in brief

H1N1 Softening demand for H1N1 vaccine may be hitting international efforts to provide some pandemic vaccine to have-not countries. The head of the World Health Organization's initiative for vaccine research says some recipient countries may be reassessing how much vaccine they want to take from the WHO's donated supply. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yemen careful not to appear too close to U.S.

SAN'A Yemen showed signs of friction yesterday with the United States over the fight against al-Qaida, insisting it has the terror group under control, as the U.S. Embassy in the capital of San'a reopened. Even as Yemeni forces have been hitting al-Qaida hideouts in recent days, comments by regime officials appear to reflect fears that Washington wants to snatch away the lead in the campaign. The government is deeply sensitive about appearing to be following an American lead before a population where distrust of the U.S. is high. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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10 world

China has no plans to further debate Iran at UN

China does not plan to hold debates on Iran's nuclear program during its Security Council presidency this month, despite U.S. calls for tougher sanctions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN suspends food aid

Conditions in Somalia too dangerous to help people

The UN food agency yesterday suspended the distribution of desperately needed aid in southern Somalia because of attacks on its staff, a decision affecting up to one million people that highlights the dangers of humanitarian work there.

The African nation is one of the most dangerous places in the world to live, but few can remember a time when aid workers have faced so many attacks.

At least 43 aid workers were killed between January 2008 and fall 2009, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Four humanitarian workers remain in the hands of their captors.

The UN decision is the latest setback for Somalia, which has not had an effective central government for two decades and sees near-daily violence in its capital.

In the southwestern Somali town of Jilib, Abdullahi Awnur blamed Islamic militants for interrupting the food aid distribution, saying it was an "indirect killing."

"We have been forced to flee from our houses and depend on food aid and now that it is finished, that means the armed group here does not want us to live," said Awnur, who lives with his eight children in a camp in Jilib — one of the towns where WFP suspended operations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOHAMMED SHEIKH NOR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Internally displaced children wait for food in the Somali capital of Mogadishu on Saturday.

News in brief

U.K. An Israeli military delegation has cancelled an official visit to Britain, officials said yesterday, the latest in a string of politicians and army officials to put off travel to the U.K. because of fears of war crimes prosecution. Israel complained that the practice, spearheaded by pro-Palestinian activists, is harming relations, and Britain's visiting attorney general said an urgent solution must be found.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hurricane centre to issue earlier warnings

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in the U.S. say they will issue storm warnings and watches about half a day sooner than before. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world 11

Britain **Snow day**

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

A girl holds a piece of ice from the Trafalgar Square fountain yesterday in London, England. Hundreds of schools were closed and three airports suspended flights after heavy snowfall across Britain. The MET office confirmed the Christmas period has been the coldest for 25 years.

Tsunami hits island homes

Landslides and a tsunami destroyed the homes of about one-third of the population on a Solomon Island, but lives were likely spared as residents with memories of previous disasters fled quickly to higher ground, officials said yesterday.

From the air, extensive damage could be seen on a remote western island after a 7.2-magnitude temblor triggered the landslides in the Pacific Solomon Islands on Monday, said a disaster management office official.

No injuries have been reported some 30 hours after the biggest in a series of quakes churned a tsunami wave that was up to three metres high as it plowed into the coast, officials said. However, more than 1,000 people have been affected after 200 houses were destroyed on Rendova, an island 300 kilometres from the capital Honiara. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Right grows in Alberta

TheWestView

Here we go again. Alberta, which spawns right-wing parties like it sprouts oil wells, has given birth to another: The Wildrose Alliance Party.

If you're keeping score at home, that's three: Social Credit, Reform, and now this.

What is it about Alberta that fosters a live-free-or-die attitude among its citizens? Maybe it should be designated a distinct society, like Quebec or Newfoundland.

If you've never heard of Wildrose, don't feel bad. Until the day before yesterday, it had exactly one seat in the 83-seat Alberta legislature, while the Perpetual Conservatives, who have governed uninterrupted for 38 years, had 70.

Well, pardner, all that changed when two Tory MLAs, fed up with the dank obscurity of the back bench, rode their 15 minutes of fame across the floor of the house, and the Wildrose vaulted over the NDP to become the third largest party in Alberta, even though it won't be two years old until Jan. 19.

So people are starting to take notice. There's even a chance Wildrose will increase its elected caucus to four as former Tory Guy Boutilier, cast into the ranks of the independents by a wrathful Premier Ed Stelmach last summer for daring to complain out loud, gleefully ponders casting his lot with Wildrose before the legislature opens next month.

Danielle Smith

That means Wildrose would automatically enjoy full legislative privileges, unlike the socialists, who have a key to the washroom only because the Speaker has taken pity on them.

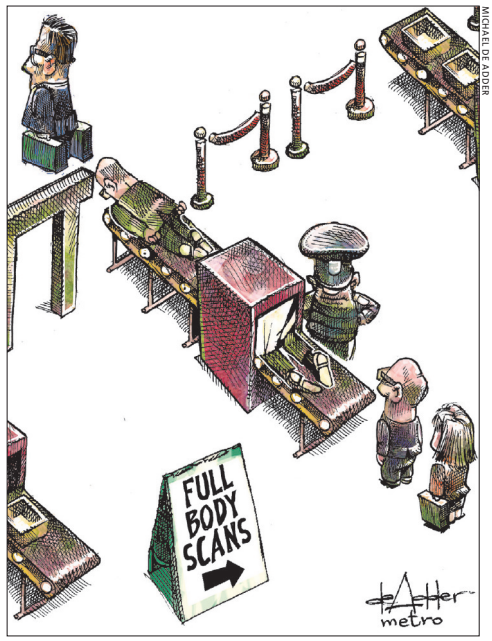
You're also forgiven if you think you've seen this movie before. Wildrose rose from the ashes of the Alberta Alliance, which itself rose from the ashes of the Reform Party, and down there somewhere, lurks the ghost of Bible Bill Aberhart, the father of Social Credit.

However, the new face of Social Credit/Reform/Alliance is the infinitely more attractive Danielle Smith, who, while fiscally conservative, is media savvy and a celebrated alum of Calgary Inc.'s 40 Under 40. Unlike the previous generation of Reform/Alliance media beefheads, Smith understands modern media relations, and is not about to be trapped into the macho, homophobic, white supremacist self-destruction common to the clan.

Still, is there room for two parties on the right, even in Alberta, where there's apparently room for anything? Stephen Harper didn't think so, and he got to be prime minister by uniting the right, even if the earliest fusion, the Canadian Conservative Reform Alliance, came to CCRAP when you added the word "party," which, of course, everybody did.

But don't think Ed Stelmach isn't looking over his shoulder. There's a new gunslinger in Wildrose Country, and in a delightful 21st-century twist, she's a woman.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



Worth mentioning

Bolivia plans alternate climate conference

Bolivian President Evo Morales said yesterday he's inviting activists, scientists and government officials from around the world to an alternative climate conference following the failure of a summit in Copenhagen to produce binding agreements.

The leftist leader said the April 20-22 meeting in Cochabamba will include indigenous peoples, social movements, environmentalists and scientists, as well as governments "who want to work with their people."

Morales said the meeting is meant partly to pressure industrialized nations to accept that they have a "climate debt" to poor countries and will work toward an international court on environmental crimes.

Other topics will include a "universal proposal for the rights of Mother Earth" and the transfer of technology.

Last month's 193-nation climate summit in Copenhagen agreed on creation of a fund to help poor nations but it was vague on how the money will be raised. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blocked

- Bolivia was one of five countries to block a consensus on accepting the Copenhagen Accord brokered by U.S. President Barack Obama, arguing the deal was done in secret by a small group of countries.

Word on the street: What are your New Year's resolutions?

Sarah Ramnath
Toronto

A: The only thing I can think of is to cut back on spending.

John MacDonald
Toronto

A: Exercise more, everyone does that ... Try to do hard things, things that I wouldn't normally do ... take a dance class or learn a new language, something out of the ordinary.

Veronika Spirkova
Toronto

A: I was put on probation for school, so, to increase my GPA to 2.0 ... Business management (program at Ryerson).

David Innanen
Vancouver

A: I plan on drinking less, cutting back to three or four drinks instead of six to eight, to protect my liver. I am worried about an early death in my 50s or 60s. I want to see 80 or 90.

Britt Gregg-Wallace
Ottawa

A: I didn't make one. I find that January is not a great time for resolutions. September is more my month, but I don't think I made one then either. I guess I'm not really a resolution person.

David Blanchard
Edmonton

A: I want to support more local venues by buying food at farmers' markets.

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PostGame TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS **WATCH YESTERDAY'S POST GAME VIDEO!**
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Sports

Big Unit retiring

Randy Johnson, left, is retiring after 22 major league seasons. The Big Unit, an overpowering left-hander who last June became the 24th pitcher to win 300 games, made the expected announcement yesterday. The five-time Cy Young Award winner owns a World Series ring and co-MVP honours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The United States' Tyler Johnson is dumped by Canada's Alex Pietrangelo last night during the world junior hockey championship final in Saskatoon. The United States won 6-5 in overtime.

Heartbreaker in OT

The United States found the elusive ingredient to win the world junior men's hockey championship.

A smaller, younger, less experienced American team than in previous years, but one that had teamwork and trust in each other, edged Canada 6-5 in overtime last night to foil the host country's bid to win a record sixth straight title.

John Carlson scored the winner with a wrist shot at 4:21 of overtime. It was the second goal of the game for Carlson, on loan to the U.S. team by his American Hockey League team in Hershey.

Yesterday's final was the first between the two countries since 2004, when the U.S. came from behind to beat Canada in Helsinki, Finland, for the Americans' first gold medal in the tournament.

Canada had won it every year after that until yesterday.

Chris Kreider, Jordan Schroeder, Jerry D'Amigo and U.S. captain Derek Stepan also scored for the U.S., who had underachieved in this tournament in recent years with bigger names and more first-round NHL draft picks in the lineup.

The U.S. held a selection camp prior to this tournament for the first time instead of simply naming 22 players to its team.

Canada has held selection camps for decades and the practice seemed to help the U.S. as they played a more cohesive team game in this tournament and pulled out the most important win.

Canada never led in the game, but Jordan Eberle of the Regina Pats scored a pair of goals in the final three minutes to tie the game and force a 20-minute overtime.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

CFL The general manager of the Saskatchewan Roughriders has been granted an absolute discharge after admitting to sexually assaulting a teenage girl. Judge Murray Hinds said he believed Eric Tillman was "genuinely remorseful" and his behaviour was "an aberration" fuelled by a bad combination of non-prescription drugs he took for a sore back.

MLS Major League Soccer could be headed for a work stoppage next month. The sport's international union says management is threatening to lock out MLS players after the league's five-year labour contract expires Jan. 31.

RAPTORS The Toronto Raptors released forward Pops Mensah-Bonsu yesterday. He averaged 2.1 points, 1.9 rebounds and 6.7 minutes in 16 games with Toronto this season.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Leafs battle back for win

NHL

Panthers 2 Leafs 3

AT

The busiest stretch of the Toronto Maple Leafs season is off to a winning start.

Alexei Ponikarovsky scored the eventual winner and Jonas Gustavsson made 29 saves last night as the Maple Leafs came from behind to beat the Florida Panthers 3-2.

It was the first of four games in five days for Toronto. The Maple Leafs visit Philadelphia today, Buffalo Friday and return home to face Sidney Crosby's Pittsburgh Penguins Saturday.

ANDREW WALLACE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Maple Leaf Jamal Mayers looks up at the official last night after colliding with Florida Panther Dennis Seidenberg.

The team is still clinging to hopes of making a playoff charge in the second half of the season and hopes to make some big strides with a good week.

Lee Stempniak and Tomas Kaberle also scored for the Maple Leafs (15-19-9). THE CANADIAN PRESS

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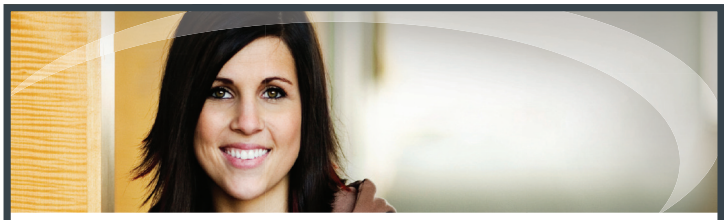
SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
TORONTO 3 Florida 2
New Jersey 4 Dallas 0
Washington 4 Montreal 2
Boston 4 Ottawa 1
Pittsburgh 5 Atlanta 2
Calgary 3 Nashville 1
Chicago 4 Minnesota 1
Phoenix at Edmonton
Columbus at Vancouver
Detroit at Anaheim

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte 113 Chicago 108
Indiana 97 Orlando 90
Milwaukee 98 New Jersey 76
Washington 104 Philadelphia 97
Detroit at Dallas
Golden State at Denver
Phoenix at Sacramento
Memphis at Portland
Houston at L.A. Lakers



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Airport official doesn't expect added delays

Vancouver Airport Authority operations vice-president Don Ehrenholz says enhanced security measures for U.S.-bound flights won't create more delays for Winter Olympic travellers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Older and wiser

Alexandre Bilodeau learns from Turin experience

A baby-faced Alexandre Bilodeau was oozing with confidence as he stood atop the Olympic moguls run in Turin.

"I will always remember the mistake and I won't do it again."
Alexandre Bilodeau, on a missed jump in Turin that dropped him to 11th

About a month before the 2006 Games, the teenager had become the youngest man ever to win a World Cup moguls event. He captured a second gold only days before the Olympics.

With only a handful of World Cup competitions under his belt, Bilodeau had quickly surged to No. 2 in the world and was a genuine Olympic medal contender.

It all happened so fast it almost seemed easy, he now admits.

Almost.

"My run was great, I had just one mistake, which cost me a lot," said Bilodeau, now 22, who missed his second jump in Turin and tumbled to an 11th-place finish.

"I will always remember the mistake and I won't do it again."

Today, the reigning World Cup champ isn't exactly grizzled, but he is wiser and even more accomplished than the self-described "young pup" version of himself that competed in Turin.

"Before 2006, I didn't know what the Olympics were all about," said Bilodeau, whose eyes widen when he starts talking about the Games.

"You've got four years to train for one thing."

The Rosemere, Que. native is now gunning for that next shot at an Olympic medal.

Since his first Olympic appearance, Bilodeau's career has soared in a judged discipline that awards points to athletes based on their technique for navigating the moguls, their execution of two aerial tricks and how fast they can tear down the hill.

Bilodeau finished the 2005-'06 season ranked second in the world and was named FIS rookie of the year. The following season he finished at No. 3, and in 2007-'08 he was No. 4.

Last season, he exploded on the World Cup hills, winning five golds and three silvers in nine starts en route to the championship.

Fellow Canadians Pierre-Alexandre Rousseau of Drummondville, Que., and Vincent Marquis of Quebec City joined Bilodeau on the podium twice last year, making them only the second team to pull off such a feat on the World Cup circuit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at:
metronews.ca/sports

JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Moguls World Cup champ Alexandre Bilodeau is gunning for another shot at an Olympic medal after falling short of the podium in Turin as a teenager.

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Klassen gets on currency
The Royal Canadian Mint has released about 22 million quarters featuring the image of Cindy Klassen, Canada's most decorated Olympian of all time. The Mint says the 25-cent coin celebrates Klassen's unprecedented five medals at the Turin Games in 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wilson leaning towards riding one goalie for Team USA

Ron Wilson is looking to the trends of Olympics past in settling on his goaltending plans for the 2010 Vancouver Games.

The American coach said Monday he's leaning towards running with the hot hand, rather than alternating between netminders.

Choosing a starter won't be easy for Wilson, who will have Buffalo Sabres star Ryan Miller, the stingy Tim Thomas of the Boston Bruins and young Jonathan Quick of the L.A. Kings at his disposal when play begins Feb. 16.

But he believes consistency is the way to go.

"Generally speaking, the teams that have, if you look in the past, won the gold medal, have played one goaltender," Wilson said on a conference call. "It's not unlike what you do in the playoffs, as well. More than likely that's what I would do but we'll see when the time comes."

History backs up his contention. At the 1998 Nagano Olympics, when NHLers participated for the first time, Dominik Hasek played in all six games as the Czech Republic won gold.

Ron Wilson

Martin Brodeur played in five straight for Canada after taking over from Curtis Joseph, a 5-2 loser to Sweden in the tournament opener, in 2002 at Salt Lake City.

And Henrik Lundqvist played in six of Sweden's eight games en route to gold at the 2006 Games in Turin.

Also factoring into the decision for Wilson is the need to show his players that the generational transition from American teams past to the current, younger squad, hasn't changed the program's goals.

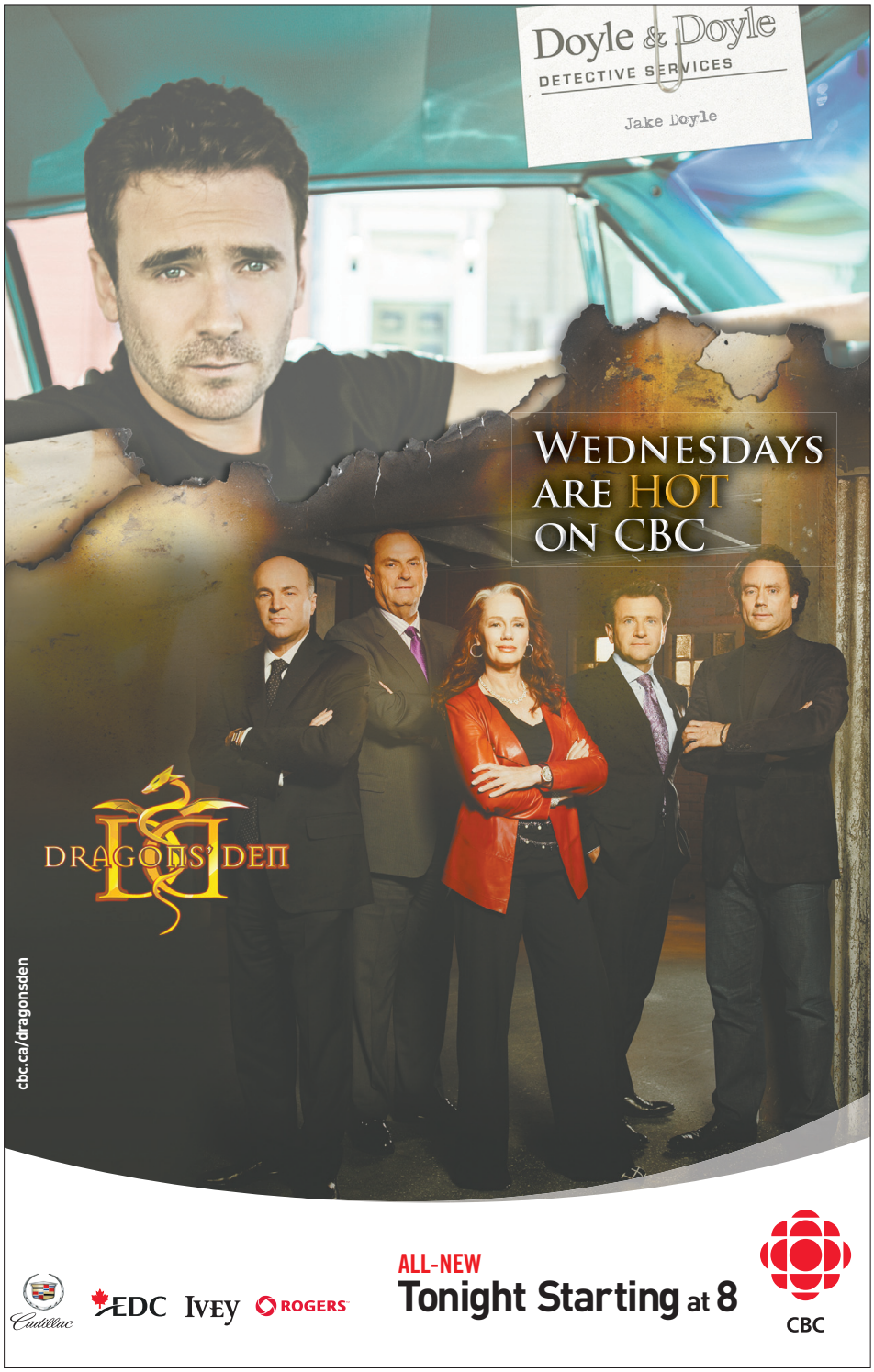
"One of our things we talked about here and with our players as well, is that we're not going to Vancouver to prepare anyone for Sochi (host of the 2014 Olympics)," said Wilson. "This is about going to Vancouver to win a gold medal."

U.S. team general manager Brian Burke, also Wilson's boss with the Toronto Maple Leafs, agrees with that notion and said his sole focus in selecting players was going for gold.

That's why he didn't take the easy route in selecting his roster, passing on longtime national team building blocks like Mike Modano and Bill Guerin in favour of younger, less accomplished players.

"We are underdogs," Burke said. "We don't mind going in under the radar ... We are going there to win."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Kwan dubs Kim Yu-na as role model for next generation of Asian skaters

SKATING Five-time world champion Michelle Kwan believes South Korean Kim Yu-na, one of the favourites for the Vancouver Olympics, is an influential role model for future figure skaters from the Asian nation.

Kwan is visiting South Korea this week as a goodwill ambassador for the U.S. State Department, and led a training session yesterday in Seoul for young skaters preparing for the Special Olympics.

"I know they all look up to Yu-na Kim," Kwan said. "It's a very big compliment when (Kim) said, 'I looked up to you Michelle when I was very young.'"

Kim, 19, the reigning world champion, is South Korea's first hope for an Olympic medal in figure skating. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Pinheads' gearing up for Vancouver

COLLECTORS Chris Pasterfield doesn't mind if people call him a "pinhead" — in fact in his line of work it's a compliment.

Pasterfield is CEO of Artiss Aminco, the company that's making the pins for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. With more than two decades of Olympic pin-making experience under his belt, Pasterfield knows a few things about the keepsakes and those who trade them.

"The rule of thumb is the guys are called pinheads, the girls are called pin-ups," laughs Pasterfield.

"That's a good way to describe them because they're obsessed, absolutely obsessed. The only cure for pin collecting I think is time and I'm not too sure that even works because people are still looking for pins from past Olympics."

"Pins become the currency of the games." Chris Pasterfield, CEO Artiss Aminco

Pasterfield has been watching people covet and trade the small pieces of metal at the Olympics since the games were held in Calgary in 1988.

There's no way to predict what pin will be the hit of the Vancouver games.

There are more than 500 pin designs for retail sale and almost as many different designs for corporate sponsors. Artiss Aminco expects to make up to 15 million pins.

Pasterfield's personal favourite is a framed set of positional hockey poses, including the coach and referee. There will also be 13 goalie masks for each country in hockey.

There will be official pin trading sites in Vancouver, but he knows the tiny treasures will be swapped in the athletes' village, on buses, in stores and on the street. "There's all sorts of ways to get pins and pins become the currency of the games," Pasterfield said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smartbook and small, light laptops joining netbooks

Unveiled at this week's International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas: Lightweight, medium-sized laptops meant as a step above netbooks in price and performance, and a "smartbook" that combines elements of netbooks and so-called smartphones. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Feds tap Europe with bond issue

FINANCE The federal government is planning to issue euro-denominated bonds to meet its budgetary requirements. The bond issue is the first in the European currency in almost 11 years but the second foreign-currency issue in the past year. The government raised $3 billion US with a U.S.-dollar bond issue in September.

The Finance Department says the euro bonds will be issued pending market conditions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

A November plunge in U.S. contracts to buy homes has some fearing a "double-dip" downturn. Scan this code for the full story.

Clash of titans Google vs. Apple

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple Inc., which makes the popular iPhone, said yesterday it is buying mobile advertising company Quattro Wireless in a bet on the future of cellphone ads and to counter Google Inc.'s proposed acquisition of Quattro rival AdMob. Google said yesterday it will sell its own mobile phone, the Nexus One, in the United States for $179 US on a two-year service contract, or $529 US without a contract. A Google Canada spokesperson said it was not launching the phone in Canada just yet.

Industry stabilizing?

Ford, Toyota post solid sales in December

December proved to be a big month for two of Canada's leading automakers, with Ford of Canada reporting sales up more than 25 per cent and Toyota Canada claiming its best-ever sales for the period.

Ford said it sold 17,930 vehicles in December, up from 14,290 in the same month in 2008. Overall sales for 2009 totalled 225,216 vehicles, up 6.7 per cent from the 211,060 it sold the previous year.

The Oakville-based automaker said the figures make Ford the bestselling brand in Canada and added that its F-Series pickup truck had reclaimed its title as the bestselling vehicle in Canada.

Toyota, citing what it called preliminary year-end results, said it sold 16,366 vehicles during the month, representing its best-ever December sales figures in Canada. It put yearly sales at "approximately" 205,028 vehicles, its second-best yearly total.

The 2009 figures included 189,226 vehicles sold under the Toyota banner and 15,802 by Lexus.

"The industry continues to show signs of strength and we see a modest recovery coming in 2010," said Ford president and CEO David Mondragon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Others

- Hyundai sold 5,154 vehicles in December (103,233 vehicles total in 2009) — 37 per cent higher than in 2008 as the company experienced its best-ever year in Canada.
- General Motors sold 18,984 vehicles, down 9.6 per cent from December 2008, but still enough to give it the highest Canadian sales volume for the month.

Suncor selling its oil and gas assets to U.S.-based Noble

ENERGY Suncor Energy, returning to its roots as an oilsands-focused company, has agreed to sell $494 million US in U.S. Rockies oil and gas assets to Houston-based Noble Energy Inc.

Noble said it would acquire virtually all of the Rockies assets that belonged to Suncor and Petro-Canada's U.S. subsidiaries before the two merged in August to create Canada's largest energy company.

Before gobbling up Petro-Canada, Calgary-based Suncor had been attractive to many investors as a pure-play on the oilsands. However, the company inherited a hodgepodge of natural gas, offshore and international assets through the transaction.

Once Suncor pares away some of its more peripheral holdings, it has said it expects to be roughly 70 per cent weighted toward oilsands, and 30 per cent weighted toward everything else.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

BROOKFIELD Toronto-based Brookfield Asset Management said it will issue $150 million of preferred shares priced at $25 each for distribution to the public. Holders of the six million Series 24 preferreds will receive a fixed dividend yielding 5.4 per cent annually for the initial period.

CADBURY Billionaire Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. said it voted against Kraft Inc.'s proposal to issue 370 million shares to finance its bid for British candy maker Cadbury, saying the plan gives Kraft management a "blank cheque."

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ADVANCING GENERICS

Gold miner appoints new chief executive
Wesdome Gold Mines, which operates mining and milling complexes in Wawa, Ont., and Val d'Or, Que., has appointed Donovan Pollitt, its vice-president corporate development, as the company's new chief executive officer replacing Rolly Uloth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Survey finds Americans unhappy at work

We can't get no job satisfaction. Even Americans who are lucky enough to have work in this economy are becoming more unhappy with their jobs, according to a new survey that found only 45 per cent of Americans are satisfied with their work.

That was the lowest level ever recorded by the Conference Board research group in more than 22 years of studying the issue.

In 2008, 49 per cent of those surveyed reported satisfaction with their jobs.

The drop in workers' happiness can be partly blamed on the worst recession since the 1930s, which made it difficult for some people to find challenging and suitable jobs. But worker dissatisfaction has been on the rise for two decades.

"It says something troubling about work in America. It is not about the business cycle or one grumpy generation," says Linda Barrington, managing director of human capital at the Conference Board, who helped write the report released yesterday.

Workers have grown steadily more unhappy for a variety of reasons:

- Fewer workers consider their jobs to be interesting.
- Incomes have not kept up with inflation.
- The soaring cost of health insurance has eaten into workers' take-home pay.

55
The percentage of U.S. workers unhappy with their jobs.

If the job satisfaction trend is not reversed, economists say, it could stifle innovation and hurt America's competitiveness and productivity. And it could make unhappy older workers less inclined to take the time to share their knowledge and skills with younger workers.

One clue that may explain workers' growing dissatisfaction: Only 51 per cent now find their jobs interesting — another low in the survey's 22 years. In 1987, nearly 70 per cent said they were interested in their work.

Workers who find their jobs interesting are more likely to be innovative and to take the calculated risks and the initiative that drive productivity and contribute to economic growth, Barrington says.

Conference Board officials and outside economists suggested weak wage growth helps explain why workers' unhappiness has been rising for more than 20 years. After growing in the 1980s and 1990s, average household incomes adjusted for inflation have been shrinking since 2000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surprise decision sees Iamgold CEO stepping down

ANNOUNCEMENT Joseph Conway, who guided Iamgold Corp. through a number of mergers and helped it grow into a gold producer worth $6 billion, will step down as president and chief executive of the Toronto-based miner by mid-January in a surprise decision that has left analysts puzzled.

Conway, who will leave Iamgold Jan. 15, is to be replaced on an interim basis by Iamgold director Peter Jones, a former president and chief operating officer of Inco Ltd.

"Joe Conway has been with the firm and built the firm... and was instrumental in ... changing it into more of an operating company."
John Ing, analyst

Iamgold spokeswoman Tamara Brown said the move was a mutual decision by Conway and the board.

"Joe has taken the company from a gold investment company through an international operating group, and he and the board agreed that this was the right time to transition the company fully," she said.

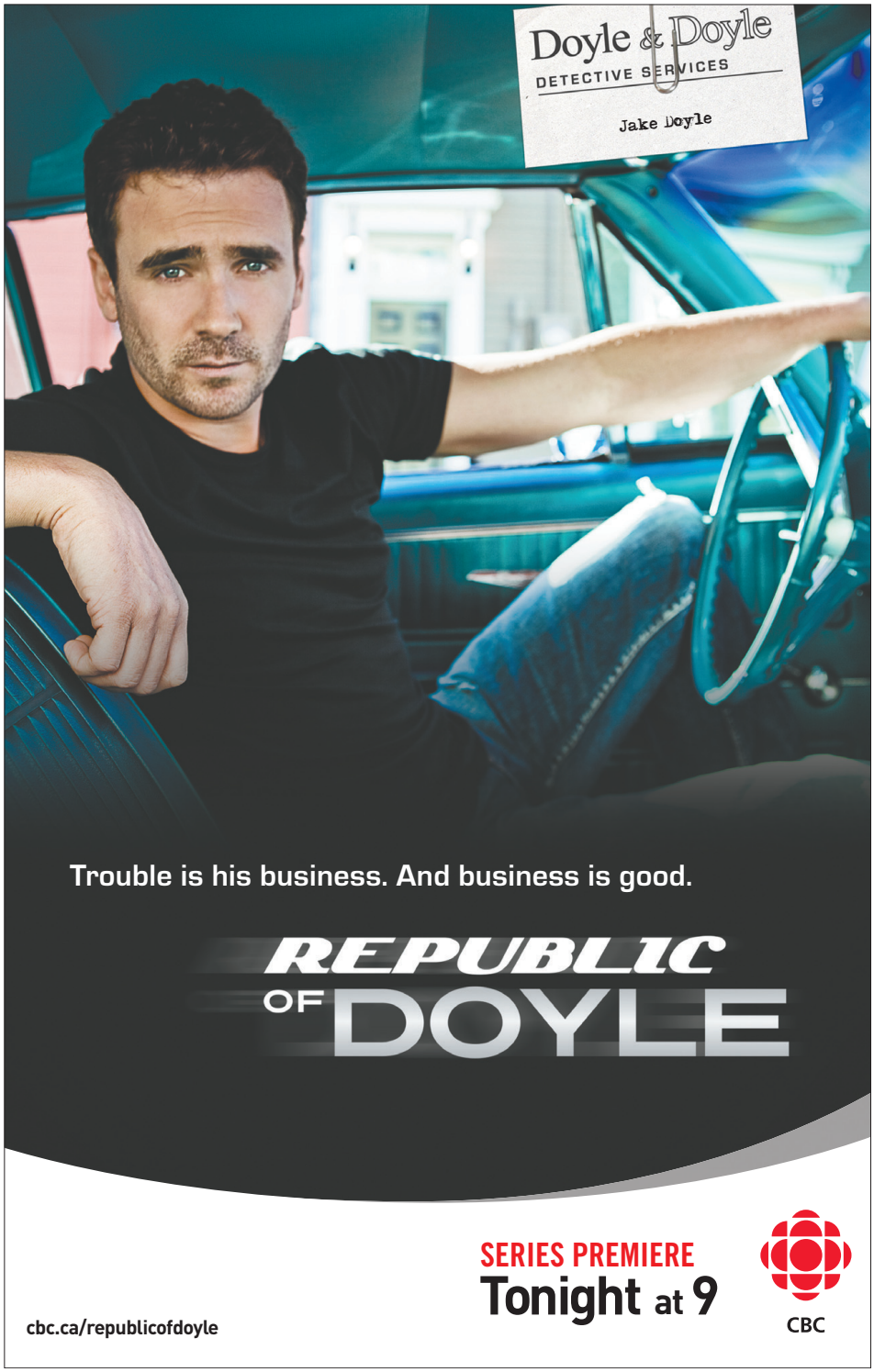
"The board now will be seeking a CEO with broader international operations experience."

The decision raised eyebrows among several industry analysts, because Conway was seen as a key leader who helped Iamgold become one of the country's more successful gold companies, one that performs better than many of its larger Canadian competitors.

"It came to me as a surprise," said John Ing, a gold analyst and president of Maison Placements in Toronto.

"Joe Conway has been with the firm and built the firm ... and was instrumental in paving the way and changing it into more of an operating company."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



B.C. mine company expansion to improve production by third

PERU Teck Resources Ltd., Canada's largest publicly traded miner, says a major expansion at the Antamina mine in Peru announced yesterday will increase production of copper and zinc by nearly a third.

The Vancouver-based company said when the project is completed in 2011, the amount of metal ore processed will increase 38 per cent to 130,000 tonnes a day, and annual production of copper and zinc will increase around 30 per cent.

Teck owns a 22.5 per cent interest in Compania Minera Antamina, the Peruvian joint venture which operates the open pit mine and is owned by some of the world's biggest mining companies.

Compania Minera will invest $1.3 billion US to expand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

OTTAWA Conexant Systems, Inc. has signed an agreement with Canadian patent-licensing firm Wi-Lan Inc., resolving litigation initiated by the Ottawa-based company. The specific terms of the agreement are confidential, Wi-Lan said. Under the terms of the agreement announced yesterday, Conexant receives access to certain of Wi-Lan's wireline and other technologies. Based in Newport Beach, Calif., Conexant designs semiconductors and related software.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Japan may set green standard

Japanese safety standards for hybrid and electric vehicles may become the global standard, with the UN World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations likely to adopt them when it meets in Geneva in March, according to the Green Car Congress. **CANADIANDRIVER.COM**

Metro Drive

New ads for Chrysler

Chrysler has introduced a new advertising campaign, intended to let all customers know that it has emerged from bankruptcy and is now a different company with a new alliance partner and a healthy product plan.

CANADIANDRIVER.COM

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Toyota Yaris sharp, spunky

The exchange at Toyota Canada began like any other — sign the paperwork, grab the keys, go out and find my test vehicle.

But when I went to press the key fob to flash the lights and identify the correct Yaris, I realized there was no fob and no buttons — just a plain old key.

It was then I sensed trouble.

Parked in front of me was the 2010 Yaris three-door CE Hatchback, in all but its most basic trim.

No keyless entry, no power locks, no power windows and when I sat down to adjust the mirrors, found no power adjustments here either.

In fact, the only options were a four-speed automatic transmission that added $1,000 to the base price of $13,620, and air conditioning for another $1,155.

Despite the challenges of running around locking and unlocking doors, rolling up windows (thankfully I didn't have the five-door) and fiddling with the side mirrors, I was impressed that Toyota included such a stripped-down model in its press fleet.

2010 Toyota Yaris CE 3-door Hatchback

Type: 3-door hatchback
Drive method: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive
Engine: DOHC 1.5 litre, 16-valve four cylinder (106 hp, 103 lb/ft of torque)
Fuel economy: Automatic: 7.0/5.7/6.4L/100km (city/hwy/combined)
Price: $13,620 (base) plus $1,000 for automatic and $1,155 for air conditioning
Website: Toyota.ca

Sure you can order the Yaris Hatchback as a fully-loaded, five-door RS with the necessary power doodads, in-dash six-CD changer, aluminum alloys and more, but that brings the price to $20,555 — more than many would expect to pay for an entry-level subcompact.

Driving the base car, on the other hand, focuses one's mind more squarely on the driving experience, not the gadgets.

My first impression was that the Yaris Hatch is a sharp little car.

More handsome than its sibling four-door sedan, more chic than the Echo, which it replaced, and light years more stylish than the Tercel, which preceded all of these as Toyota's subcompact offering.

It's stubby nose, short front and rear overhangs, and protruding wheel arches give the Yaris Hatch a sporty, firmly-planted, four-square stance.

Inside, the base unit is fairly spartan, with a simple hooded instrument panel in the centre of the dash and a two-speaker AM/FM/CD sound system (with plug-in for MP3 players) and three large knobs for climate control and fan speed directly below.

Still, the wide expanse of textured plastic on either side of the instruments is well outfitted with storage. There's a pull-out cupholder to the left of the steering wheel, a glovebox behind the wheel, an upper and lower glovebox on the passenger side, and another cupholder on the far right.

The front bucket seats offer few adjustments (forward/back, recline), but provide high bolsters in the thighs and back and a comfortable grippy fabric that really holds you in place during hard cornering.

On the passenger side, a single lever folds the front seat and moves it forward enough for access to the rear. It's surprisingly roomy in back, with plenty of kneeroom, shoulder room and headroom for two large adults.

Three of lesser size will fit in a pinch, but for short trips only. Yaris has style and attitude, and although it may not be the cheapest among the competition, it offers an ideal combination of fuel efficiency, and practicality. **NEIL MOORE/ FROM CARGUIDE MAGAZINE**

With short overhangs, a stubby nose and wheels pushed out to the corners, the 2010 Yaris CE three-door hatchback displays a punchy attitude in contrast to its thrifty base price and fuel economy.

Simple controls are located below the centre instrument panel. The Yaris offers plenty of storage with a glovebox behind the steering wheel.

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

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NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Joanne Doiron	NB, CA	574	232	346	578
2. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	603	259	315	574
3. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	577	232	339	571
3. Jean-Paul Osborne	QC, CA	596	233	338	571
3. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	593	231	340	571
6. Brian B	AB, CA	592	236	334	570
7. Cole Warren	NS, CA	584	206	359	565
7. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	599	241	324	565
9. Feroz Mir	ON, CA	594	224	334	558
9. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	593	235	323	558
11. Tom Collier	NS, CA	608	252	305	557
12. Paula Almeida-Stille		592	234	321	555
12. Stephen Stille	ON, CA	592	234	321	555
14. Matty Strathearn	NS, CA	602	236	318	554
15. Brad Goertz	BC, CA	570	196	357	553

** Results exclude Quebec*

markerzone.com

metro

Border actress loves to use AutoShare

MyDrive Heather Buchan

metronews.ca/mydrive

Although actress Athena Karkanis planned to attend law school upon graduating from McGill 10 years ago, she decided instead to give acting a shot. And the Toronto-raised Greek beauty hasn't looked back since. "Acting was something that I always liked, but I never really thought of it as a career choice," she says.

After being accepted into the renowned Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York, she says everything "just sort of clicked. In that moment, I thought, 'Okay, this is it. This is what I'm doing.'"

Following a few years studying and working in New York, Karkanis returned to her hometown of Toronto, where she's starred in numerous roles on stage, TV and film since. She says her most recent on-screen role, that of Agent Khalida Massi on CBC's hit TV drama The Border, has been "really cool and really fun."

Karkanis

An avid cyclist, Karkanis, who lives in the heart of Toronto, was hesitant to buy a car, but needed access to one on occasion. So she and her boyfriend joined AutoShare Toronto, a car sharing service. "You can book a minivan if you need to move big stuff, but if you want t a fun little car to zip across the city for a dinner date, you can book a mini," she explains, adding that she doesn't feel as badly about her carbon footprint because "you're using the car less that you would if you owned it.

"It's a co-op, so you become a member, pay a monthly fee and then an hourly rate for use," explains Karkanis. "The hourly rate includes insurance and gas. It's really convenient" It's so convenient for city dwellers, in fact, that one of Karkanis' friends, a fellow actor, sold his car and joined AuthoShare. "He uses it all the time, and it's still cheaper than owning a car," she says.

Upon wrapping The Border's third season in October, Karkanis starred onstage in the Toronto production of That Face, alongside Sonja Smitts. "Theatre was my first love," says the versatile actress, who speaks multiple languages (French, Spanish, Italian, German). In fact, she reveals she would love to one-day work in European film. "I would like to work in other languages," she says. Considering she already speaks five languages, it seems very possible that her acting career will take her far beyond our borders.

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has worked at Homemakers, Canadian Living, Canadian House & Home and, most recently, Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

AutoPilot Michael Goetz

Read this week's column at metronews.ca/autopilot

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$59M for research

Last month, the Canada Foundation for Innovation announced over $59 million in support for 262 projects at 40 research institutions across the country. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

uCal cuts gifted programs

The University of Calgary's education faculty announced that due to the market downturn the university would not renew the contract of the Centre for Gifted Education's acting director, who was providing free counselling to parents and gifted elementary and high school students. The centre's summer camps and Saturday programs have also been discontinued. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

The face of techies

Working at School

Every Wednesday for the next month Metro's Workology section will be featuring a variety of careers that you may not have thought of; jobs in which you stay in college or university after graduating. There are many jobs that make post-secondary institutions hum, here's but one:

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

On campuses across Canada, computer and audio-visual technicians are often the go-to people for instant help and a lot of peace of mind.

For many of them, the full-time work provides a satisfying career supported by strong unions, reasonable work hours and a great work environment full of people who share a common bond.

Charlie Pollock, 31, did a psychology degree but always had a knack for fixing computers so when a full-time desktop support technician position opened up at the University of Calgary, he jumped at the chance to make it a job.

Now, four years later, he still loves the challenge of fixing computers and the thrill of the kill when he solves a tough case.

"It's always changing, never the same. Every day you run into new problems — it's kind of Sherlock Holmes-ey, you have to do research and take some time to deal with the tougher problems correctly," Pollock said.

With a plethora of platforms, hardware and software abounding, Pollock says the greatest challenge is often just getting a grip of the specifics on individual situations for which sometimes even the Internet is stumped for answers.

Pollock says his work is less about fixing gadgets and more about people, since the whole point of keeping computers running is to help out the people who need them.

"Our job is largely customer service focused so you don't want to burn any bridges or make anyone feel stupid. A lot of times people just don't understand the technology, and that's fine," Pollock said.

Funny IT story

- One customer gaffe sticks out in computer technician Charlie Pollock's mind: His team once rushed a technician out to help a woman whose desktop icons had disappeared off her screen, only to discover she forgot to turn on the monitor.

Chances are you will interact with the information technology and audio/visual departments on a few occasions during your time at college or university.

Spencer Cantley, 30, has been a full-time audio-visual technician at Dalhousie University in Halifax for more than six years and is tasked with loaning and maintaining hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of cameras, computers, lighting systems and projectors. For him it's necessary to always stay in touch with what's new but he doesn't consider it a chore since it forces him to continually learn new things about the technology he loves.

"I'm just constantly learning and from an electronics standpoint, that's exciting," Cantley said.

Cantley says the best part of the job is meeting new people every new school year.

"Every semester brings new people and I love meeting people. I also love that my job changes on a daily basis — it's never the exact same thing on any given day," Cantley said.

For more of the Working at School exclusive series check Workology every Wednesday or stop by: **metronews.ca/work**

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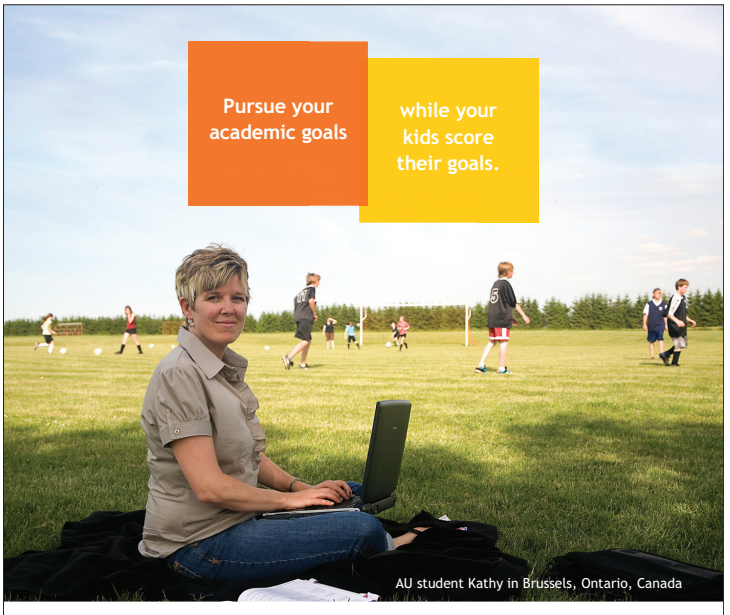

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University of Lethbridge appoints new president
The University of Lethbridge announced last month that Dr. Michael Mahon has been named the new president of the institution, effective July 1. He is a graduate of the Universities of Manitoba, Alberta, and North Carolina at Chapel Hill. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology in **brief**

N.L. COLLEGE GETS MORE AUTONOMY: Recently, the Newfoundland and Labrador government announced several initiatives to increase the independence of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, the Corner Brook campus of Memorial University. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Even the Dragons call in experts sometimes

Dragons' Den
Dianne Buckner

metronews.ca/dragonsden

CBC PHOTO
Calgary entrepreneurs Demetrius Lloyd and Daniel Diamond meet surprise guest Mike Holmes on tonight's Dragons' Den episode.

Sometimes a little help goes a long way. In any facet of work or life, to be successful means you have to be humble enough to ask for help when you need it. And tonight's episode of Dragons' Den proves the Dragons are no different. For the first time ever, the Dragons invite three industry experts to weigh in on the pitches presented.

In their own careers leading up to Dragon status, the Den's panel of entrepreneurs have become experts in their own fields — but that doesn't mean they know everything about everything. And considering the incredibly wide range of business ideas that are pitched on the program, some are bound to be in markets where the Dragons are less than 100-per-cent confident.

These money-savvy millionaires don't want to miss a fantastic opportunity, just because it lies outside their comfort zone. So bring on the expert advisors.

Consulting an expert can benefit anyone. If you're trying to get your boss or a team member to buy into your idea, it can definitely pay off to do a bit of research. Have other companies used the strategy you're proposing? Is there a famous quote from someone with proven experience that backs up what you're saying? It definitely adds to the credibility of your presentation if you can show you've done your homework.

You'll see tonight how an expert opinion can help, or hinder, a presentation. Daniel Diamond and Demetrius Lloyd of Calgary brave the Den with a specialty tool they've invented. They know their product inside and out, but they need help turning their invention into a business. And they know the wealthy Dragons can help them, if they can explain the opportunity properly.

Luckily home inspection guru Mike Holmes is there to help. As Arlene admits, "Thank goodness you're here, Mike, because he lost me at rebar."

Even the toughest of critics, Kevin O'Leary, appreciates an expert's help in the den. "We're basically trying to determine the risk of the market or product or service. And an expert's opinion is a great way of determining that risk."

But proving your point with a little backup won't necessarily get you a deal or drive home that sales presentation, especially when looking for capital, or CASH as the dragons fondly refer to it. An expert helps, but it's still up to you.

As Kevin O'Leary points out, "In the end it's my own money and the only expert I trust is me."

Dianne Buckner is the host of Dragons' Den and the weekend anchor on the CBC News Network. Watch Dragons' Den at 8 p.m. tonight on CBC.

WorkplaceLaw
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Check Metronews.ca/workplacelaw for this week's column on the do's and don'ts of the court room. The column will return to print next week.

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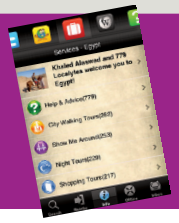
Touring this film's backdrop isn't Complicated
If you liked the backdrop for It's Complicated, the new comedy about love and divorce starring Meryl Streep, Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin, you might enjoy a visit to Santa Barbara, where parts of the movie were set. santabarbaraca.com/filmtour/its-complicated. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel



Is that a sherpa in your pocket...?

On the road, nothing really beats a good tip from a local on where to get the best ribs, catch a jazz show, or how to score tickets at a popular venue. Guide books invariably promise to give tourists the local scoop and routinely deliver mixed results. But Pocket Sherpa, an iPhone app, could be your besttravel companion. The application is tied to the localyte.com — which seeks to connect travellers with "local people who are proud of where they live and want to share their local knowledge." The app promises to connect users to more than 40,000 locals in 7,000-plus locations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Party at Florida's pirate Mardi Gras

Tampa Bay's street festival attracted 350,000 eye-patched, peg-legged revellers in 2009

Dave Pagano started his life as a pirate a few years back wearing a white linen shirt with puffy sleeves and open neckline.

Then he bought a bandanna, a dreadlocked wig, a replica musket, a sword, a knife and, this year alone, $500 US worth of beads.

Pagano is a Tampa pirate and, later this month, he will be in his buccaneer glory when the city's annual pirate festival, Gasparilla, kicks off. Gasparilla, which is more than a century old, attracted 350,000 people last year. It's known for its rowdy, Mardi Gras-style atmosphere — including bead-tossing by costumed revellers.

Pagan will be among them, wandering the crowds during three parades, handing out long strings of beads — some with rubber ducks attached. (The ducks also wear pirate hats).

"You cannot describe the fun you have doing it," said Pagano, a 50-something business consultant who, even on New Year's Eve, sat in a bar dressed in full pirate regalia.

Tampa and pirates go way back, long before Jack Sparrow or the Tampa Bay Buccaneers football team.

According to city lore, a Spanish pirate named Jose Gaspar terrorized the west coast of Florida in the 18th and 19th centuries. The swashbuckler's legend was unearthed in 1904, when some enterprising city leaders — having just returned from Mardi Gras in New Orleans — decided that Tampa needed its own street festival.

The festival organizers adopted Gaspar as a patron saint. Early Gasparilla parades featured a krewe — high-society social club members in full pirate regalia — arriving on horseback and "capturing" the city.

Later, krewes, which is also what Mardi Gras clubs are called, became more plentiful, the costumes more elaborate. Led by that first initial group, Ye Mystic Krewe, the krewes arrived via boat, floating from Hillsborough Bay into the city's downtown to seize the key to the city from the mayor, who always plays along.

With hundreds of thousands of people turning out to watch, it's easy to see why folks like Pagano tend to get a little pirate-obsessed all year round in Tampa. But you don't need an elaborate costume to enjoy the Gasparilla fun. A pair of comfortable shoes and a little pre-party planning will do.

"The people who will enjoy Gasparilla the most will be the ones who plan ahead," said Darrell Stefany, the president of Event Fest, which produces the annual Seminole Hard Rock Gasparilla Pirate Fest.

The first event takes place Jan. 23, with the Children's Gasparilla Extravaganza.

This is an alcohol-free event, with bike rodeos, children in pint-sized pirate costumes and fireworks. Held in the same location as the adult-themed parade a week later, the children's parade is family friendly and free.

The true bacchanal begins Jan. 30, with a 10 a.m. Invasion Brunch at the Tampa Convention Center and then storms through the city.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS URSO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pirates hang off the Jose Gaspararilla pirate ship as it makes its way along Seedon Channel during the 'invasion' of Tampa Bay.

Much like Mardi Gras, pirates toss beads to onlookers.

If you go ...

- The Festival begins Jan. 30 at the Seminole Hard Rock as the Gasparilla Pirate Fest parades through downtown Tampa starting at 11:30 a.m. That same day, a street festival with music, food and drinks is held from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in downtown Tampa. For more info: gasparillapiratefest.com.

CHRIS URSO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Jose Gaspar tall ship is surrounded by several local yachts as the ships makes its way down the channel

141 Pretend pirates cause trouble too, though less serious. Because of problems in residential areas near the parade and public drunkenness in past years (141 people were arrested during the 2009 fest), Tampa Police will have a larger presence this year and crack down on inappropriate behaviour.

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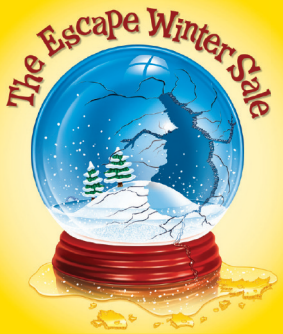

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New York most popular in U.S.

New York's Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, announced that in 2009 New York City was the most popular tourist destination in the United States for the first time since 1990. The 45.25 million tourists exceeded projections. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Armani ventures into hotels

LAUNCH Armani Hotel Dubai, the first hotel to open under the collaboration between Giorgio Armani and Emaar Properties, will be officially launched on Mar. 18.

Exclusively housed in the distinctive Burj Dubai tower, the world's tallest building, the Armani Hotel Dubai is the first of a series of hotels, resorts and residences designed by Giorgio Armani to be opened around the globe. It marks fashion maestro Giorgio Armani's debut into the world of hospitality. Defined by its unique location, highest standards of aesthetics and service excellence, the Armani Hotel Dubai will be the most exclusive destination in the city.

The Armani Hotel will be housed in Burj Dubai tower.

The online bookings for the Armani Hotel Dubai will go live in late Jan. 2010, and prospective visitors can register online at armanihotels.com to receive further details about the hotel.

The opening of the Armani Hotel in Dubai will be followed by the launch of the Armani Hotel Milano. Other properties underway include the first Armani Resort, planned for Marrakech, and the first Armani Residences villas, for Marassi in Egypt. Further Armani hotels, resorts and residences will open subsequently in key international destinations such as New York, Tokyo, Shanghai and London.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

TIM COY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nightly victory parties and hospitality houses are your best bet for free entertainment in Vancouver.

Olympics on the cheap

How to enjoy Vancouver during the Games

If you should come across an extra $1,100 hiding in the cushions of your couch, prime seats for the opening ceremonies are surely one of the best ways to enjoy the 2010 Olympic Games.

But, if you're one of many Canadians worried that their credit card company might order their arrest on the spot if they tried to buy either, don't despair.

It doesn't mean the Games are beyond your rather limited monetary reach. Tourism officials say there's plenty for the frugal traveller to do at the Winter Games this February.

"Certainly there are some really hot tickets ... but there's lots of things and ways to experience the Games that don't have to be really expensive, and sometimes that means not even necessarily spending all of your time and money watching sporting events," says Amber Sessions, spokeswoman for Tourism Vancouver.

It's been difficult to predict how many visitors will come just for the Olympics but Tourism Vancouver has estimated a quarter million more people than usual will be in the city for the event. Sessions says there's still time to book a trip to see the Olympics and accommodations are available. There are dozens upon dozens of free events, including the Ozone at the Speed skating Oval in Richmond, 24 hectares of food, fireworks and fun. The Ozone will have live entertainment including Our Lady Peace, Hawksley Workman, and Bedouin Soundclash, not to mention Heineken House.

Heineken House comes courtesy of the Dutch and will provide the ambience for their national hospitality house, where medals will be handed out to athletes from the Netherlands. And yes, it's free. This is why the world loves the Dutch.

And for a frugal first-hand experience of the Olympics, remember that not all sports are created equal. A mere $25 to $30 buys a ticket to many of the alpine events in Whistler and $50 will get you into the cheap seats at the Olympic Speedskating Oval or the preliminary rounds of hockey.

There are definitely restrictions on who will even be allowed up to Whistler given the limited number of places to stay, but the resort town will have an impressive lineup of free concerts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIM COY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

There is plenty of cheap things to do around Vancouver.

$22 Nightly victory ceremonies at B.C. Place stadium cost a positively un-Olympic $22. Of course, they used to be free, but these are hard times for everyone.

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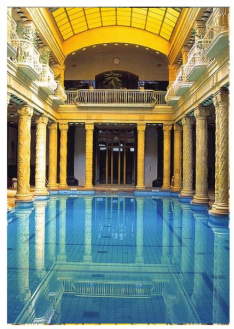
Montreal gets ready for Nuit Blanche
Montreal's Nuit Blanche will include more than 170 mostly free activities on the evening of Feb. 27, and on Feb. 20 a massive free outdoor multimedia spectacle will combine circus arts, pyrotechnics, acrobatics, music and projections. METRO NEWS SERVICES

COURTESY OF SPASBUDAPEST.COM

Szechenyi and Gellert spas are two of the most affordable and luxurious in all of Budapest. Featuring year-round outdoor thermal pools it's a good way to end a day.

Kicking back in the best of Budapest


Inside the Szechenyi spa.

Sometimes called the city of spas, Budapest is home to over a dozen thermal spas. The bathhouses make perfect destinations for weary tourists, sore backpackers, and families —as well as hungover concert-goers.

COURTESY OF SPASBUDAPEST.COM

Budapest is known as the city of spas.

I visited two of Budapest's biggest and most visited baths, Szechenyi and Gellert last summer. They were filled with 20-somethings wearing bracelets from the annual Sziget festival, a seven-day music event that's one of the biggest in Europe.

Many of my fellow spa-goers looked like they could have used some of the healing powers the therapeutic waters have to offer. A week of partying can have that effect on your facial expressions.

The Szechenyi baths are located in City Park. The Neo-Baroque building is beautiful inside and out.

The three outside pools are decorated with various statues of water gods and marine life. Many of the statues have hot water shooting out, creating popular spots for hot water massages.

For more info spas-budapest.com

Visitors have their choice of 18 pools, five swimming pools and 13 thermal baths. The water temperatures range from 20-to-40 C.

Bathhouses with indoor pools are open year-round, of course, but Szechenyi also has one huge hot pool outside that remains open all winter, with clouds of steam rising into the cold air. Several outdoor pools outside of Budapest also operate in the winter, including those in Harkany, Heviz, Visegrad, Egerszalok and Hajduszoboszlo.

The Gellert Baths have many of the same features as Szechenyi. The baths are in the Hotel Gellert, on the opposite side of the Danube River. Gellert is on the Buda side of town, while Szechenyi is in Pest.

The Gellert's facility is beautiful, if somewhat touristy. It features outdoor pools, including a wave pool and eight indoor thermal baths.

Entry prices vary from spa to spa. Gellert was $18.40 US. Szechenyi was $16.30. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Toronto hostels tops in North America

Hostel-goers throughout the world have rated three Toronto hostels — Clarence Castle, Canadiana Backpackers Inn, and All Days House as three of the top hostel destinations throughout North America. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Learn the ropes on Stoneham's slopes

Professional snowboarders will hold instructional clinics for riders up to age 15 at Stoneham Mountain Resort during the annual Snowboard Jamboree Festival.

The young riders will get tips on participating in competitions and be able to apply their skills in contests the same day.

It's among events geared to amateurs — there will also be a snowboard camp for girls — during the Jan. 20-24 festival, which is staging the LG/FIS Snowboard World Cup.

Some of the world's top athletes will compete in halfpipe, giant parallel slalom, snowboardcross and big air on the last stop of the snowboard world cup circuit before the Olympics.

The big air event will be held in downtown Quebec City at a venue below the ramps to Autoroute Dufferin-Montmorency. The same site will be used for Stairsmasters, a street-riding contest for snowboarders.

Stoneham Mountain Resort is located 20 minutes north of Quebec City.

For more information on the clinics visit snowjamboree.com.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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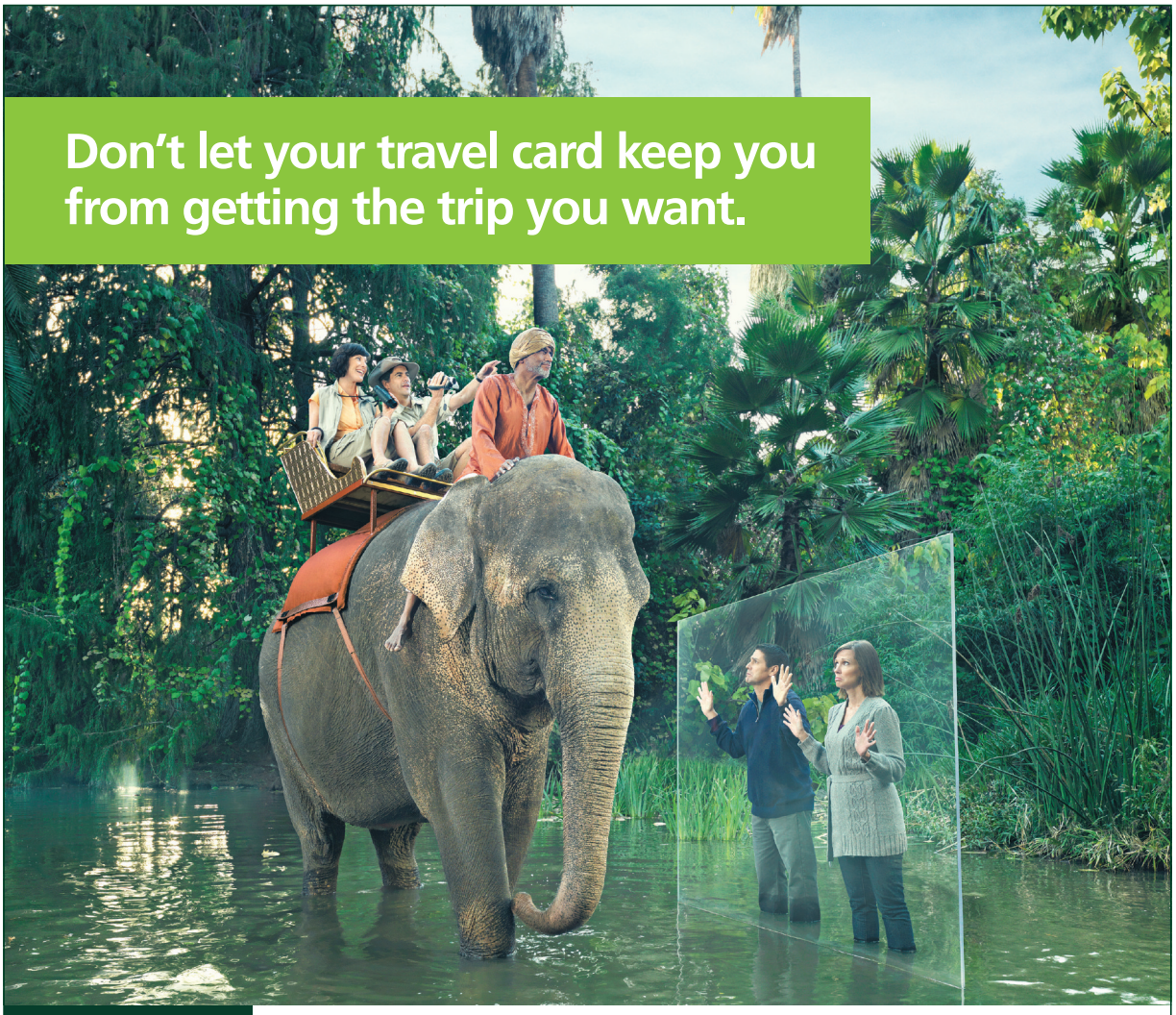
The festival kicks off Jan. 20 and runs to Jan 24.



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Travel in brief

ART LOVERS The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art has opened in Charlotte, N.C. The museum describes itself as the only museum dedicated to the exhibition of mid-20th-century modern art in North America. The museum is named after the family of Andreas Bechtler, a Charlotte resident and native of Switzerland who inherited and assembled a collection of more than 1,400 works. The collection includes work by Alberto Giacometti, Joan Miro, Jean Tinguely, Max Ernst, Andy Warhol, Alexander Calder, Le Corbusier, Sol LeWitt, Edgar Degas, Nicolas de Stael, Barbara Hepworth and Picasso.

WEIRD AND WILD A Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium has opened in the Plaza Acuario in Veracruz, Mexico. The 930-square-metre museum is an interactive exhibit of weird wonders, including a 2.4-metre horse made from chrome car bumpers, shrunken heads, matchstick art and freak animals. Mexico also has Ripley's attractions in Mexico City and Guadalajara. Ripley's has a total of 30 Believe It or Not! museums in 12 countries. The 31st location is set to open in late January in Surfers Paradise, Australia.

2 FOR 1 DEAL Due to popular demand, Trafalgar Tours has extended the 2-4-1 air deal for passengers who pay in full by Jan. 31. If you book an air-inclusive 2010 Trafalgar Summer Europe tour, their travelling companion booked on the same itinerary flies for free. The only charge to the companion will be taxes and fuel surcharges. Visit their website for more information. trafalgar.com/content.asp

ALASKA While most visitors come to Alaska in the summer, winter offers unique experiences: A chance to see the Northern Lights, dog-sledding and snowmobiling. The Anchorage Fur Rendezvous Festival, which started 75 years ago as a way to welcome miners and trappers to town, featuring a fur auction, blanket toss, snowshoe-softball tournament, outhouse races, ice bowling, the Miners and Trappers Ball and the sprint-distance Rondy World Championship Sled Dog Race, Feb. 26-March 7. furrondy.net.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ono plans Lennon book
Yoko Ono is to release a book about her life with John Lennon. The 76-year-old widow of the late former Beatle has revealed she will put pen to paper over the next few years and write an autobiography about her eventful life with John. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Vaughn weds
Vince Vaughn married fiancée Kyla Weber last weekend during a small ceremony in his hometown of Chicago, his rep confirms to People magazine. Weber is a Canadian real estate agent. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Growing pains

Michael Cera returns with Youth In Revolt

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

In Youth in Revolt, Brampton, Ont., born actor Michael Cera plays an anachronistic Frank Sinatra fan who falls for the anachronistic Jean-Paul Belmondo loving girl who lives next door at the trailer park.

When circumstance steps in to keep them apart he (with the help of an imaginary friend named Francois Dillinger) changes his life to be with her.

Cera admits the idea of having one of his favourite books pared down from 500 pages to a 90 minute script made him nervous but he couldn't resist the opportunity to sign on to the project.

"I just love the book," he says. "It's very cinematic and I thought the humour of the book would work very well on screen. That was the thought behind the movie; to capture the humour on screen.

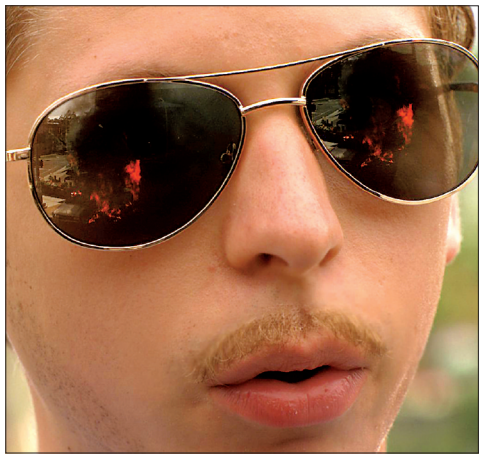
Youth in Revolt is in theatres this Friday

"You can't tell the whole story of the book because it is so huge, but the book exists for that reason. The book is its own enjoyment."

His character, Nick Twisp, appealed to the actor because it had a ring of authenticity often missing from teen comedies.

"I love the voice of the character," he said, "and it's nice when you're reading the book because you're reading his journal so you are really tapping right into his mind. It feels like you are feeling the thought process of the author. I connected with that.

"The character was real," he said. "C.D. Payne wrote it really personally. It felt like he wrote it in his own voice. He wasn't trying to write like a fourteen year old kid. He didn't add in any false naiveté or didn't try and sound less intelligent he was just writing and it was personal. I think that's why people connect to things; when they feel personal."



Canadian actor Michael Cera stars in new movie Youth In Revolt.

Cera hopes audiences will relate with Youth in Revolt. "I hope maybe people will feel inspired," he says. "That would be the best case scenario. That's the best feeling I have walking out of the movies. That's a hard thing to accomplish but it is special when it happens."

Judge sets hearing in Polanski case

PEOPLE A court spokesman says a Los Angeles judge has scheduled a hearing today in Roman Polanski's criminal case.

Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini says Judge Peter Espinoza will convene a status conference this afternoon. It's the first time the 30-year-old sex case will be back in court since a state appeals court last month rejected Polanski's bid to have it dismissed.

Polanski is under house arrest at his Swiss chalet. Swiss authorities have not yet ruled on whether to extradite Polanski. The director fled the U.S. in 1978 on the eve of sentencing after pleading guilty to having unlawful sex with a minor.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

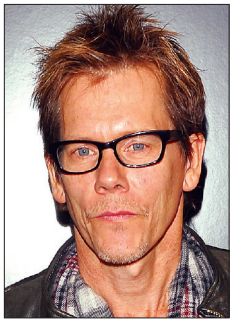
Bacon recognized for charity work

Hollywood's awards season is just beginning, and Kevin Bacon has already won.

The 51-year-old actor, nominated for Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe awards for his starring turn in the TV movie Taking Chance, will receive the Joel Siegel Award from the Broadcast Film Critics Association. The award recognizes an entertainer's charitable efforts.

Meryl Streep will present the honour to Bacon at the Critics' Choice Movie Awards on Jan. 15.

Bacon is being honoured for his website SixDegrees.org, which invites visitors to contribute to their favourite causes with a few clicks of the mouse. Bacon said he was inspired by longtime philanthropist Paul Newman, who "took this simple idea and was able to translate it into millions and millions of dollars of good work."



Kevin Bacon

So, playing on the trivia game that bears his name, Bacon created SixDegrees.org to connect donors and volunteers with the charities that interest them.

"The idea that we're all connected as human beings on this planet and the things that we do to each other and for each other have a ripple effect ... there's a real kind of six-degrees reality to this planet right now," Bacon said, adding that he was "trying to turn something that was a little bit of a joke just into something kind of positive."

The site has attracted nearly $3 million US in donations since its launch three years ago.

BFCA President Joey Berlin said the Joel Siegel Award, named for the late Good Morning America correspondent, honours a person "who understands that the true value of celebrity is as an enhanced platform to do good works for others."

"Kevin personifies the values celebrated by this award," Berlin said in a statement yesterday.

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Freeman replaces Cronkite

Nearly six months after Walter Cronkite's death, his voice is leaving the CBS Evening News. His introduction of anchor Katie Couric was replaced this week by a voiceover featuring actor Morgan Freeman. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Ethan Hawke, left, and Willem Dafoe face a world of vampires in the new Spierig Brothers movie Daybreakers.

Vampires rule the world in chilling Daybreakers

CHRIS ALEXANDER
For Metro Canada

In Richard Matheson's groundbreaking 1954 novella I Am Legend, a devastating plague ravages the planet, turning humanity into a race of shambling vampires, hell bent on drinking the blood of any survivors that have the misfortune of crossing their paths.

In the new horror/thriller Daybreakers, a similar setup sees mankind falling prey to a vampiric disease. Except here, the ghouls become the master race: A cultured, mannered, sophisticated society of monsters who live by night.

The film is the latest offering from Australia's Spierig Brothers, the wild-eyed lads who previously gave us 2005's loopy zombie epic Undead.

But unlike that demented spoof, Daybreakers takes its subject considerably more seriously, fusing gore-caked thrills with social satire and intimate character study while delivering a vampire film that bends — but not breaks — the rules.

"We respect the vampire mythology," says Peter Spierig of his oft-exploited subject.

"We didn't want to break too many of the rules, but by the same token we wanted to really do something different. We wanted to add the social commentary too, without being too heavy-handed about it or preachy. I think we found the right balance."

Daybreakers opens in theatres this Friday

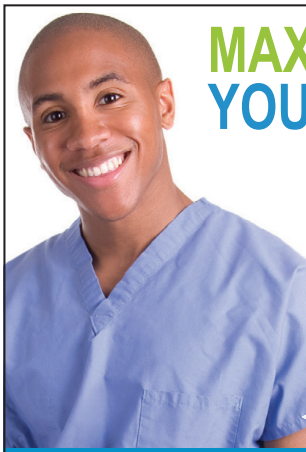
Daybreakers stars Ethan Hawke as Edward (not to be confused with the Twilight vampire), an undead pharmacist experimenting on humans in order to find a cure for the living corpse condition that ails his kind.

Unlike his callous contemporaries however, Edward cares about humans and, after he inadvertently saves a gang of hunted, mortal rebels, becomes embroiled in a plot to put a stake in the heart of this new, twilight world.

"We got lucky with our cast," says brother Michael of Daybreakers' solid stable of actors, which also include heavy hitters Sam Neil and Willem Dafoe.

"It was an incredible thrill to have them on board. In Undead, we had a virtually non-existent budget and it was wild this time having a stable of people working for you who were this talented, both in front of and behind the camera.

"And if all goes well with the movie's release, we might actually be able to make another one."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Autopsy planned for Casey Johnson
An autopsy is planned for Casey Johnson, the heiress to the Johnson&Johnson empire was found dead in her Los Angeles home Monday. She was the girlfriend of reality TV star Tila Tequila. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sci-fi films make producers' list

Avatar, Trek, District 9 among nominees for Guild awards

James Cameron's Avatar is one fo 20 films nominated in the best-picture category by the Producers Guild of America.

Science-fiction scored big with the Producers Guild of America, with Avatar, Star Trek and District 9 taking three of the 10 nominations yesterday for the group's top film honours.

The group representing Hollywood producers also handed best-picture nominations to the animated blockbuster Up, the Second World War hit Inglourious Basterds and critical favourites The Hurt Locker, Precious: Based on the Novel Push By Sapphire, Up in the Air, An Education and Invictus.

The Producers Guild followed the lead of the Academy Awards and doubled its best-picture field to 10 nominees this season.

Up also is nominated for best animated film, along with 9, Coraline, Fantastic Mr. Fox and The Princess and the Frog.

Guild picks typically are a good forecast for the eventual best-picture lineup at the Oscars, whose nominations come out Feb. 2.

If Oscar choices run the same way, the show will gain the mass appeal organizers had sought to bring to Hollywood's biggest party. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences doubled the best-picture field last summer, hoping to bring a broader range of films into the awards fold.

TV ratings for the Oscar show, on a general decline over the last few decades, usually climb in years when huge hits are in the running. The Oscars had their biggest audience ever when Titanic, the modern box-office king with $1.8 billion worldwide, dominated the ceremony 12 years ago.

Avatar is Titanic director James Cameron's first narrative film since then. The sci-fi epic has topped $350 million US domestically and shot past the $1 billion mark worldwide, and it appears headed to the No. 2 spot in the record books globally, behind Titanic. The Producers Guild lineup includes four other big hits — Up and Star Trek, both $200 million smashes, and District 9 and Inglourious Basterds, which topped $100 million each.

The other nominees include the recession-era comic drama Up in the Air which has plenty of box-office potential left and the celebrity appeal of star George Clooney.

The Iraq War drama The Hurt Locker has dominated key honours from critics groups and did solid independent-cinema business. The teen dramas Precious and An Education and the South Africa tale Invictus, directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon, also have been strong arthouse earners.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A list of awards leading up to Oscar

With movie awards season now in full swing, the Iraq war film The Hurt Locker is an early frontrunner, according to an award tracking survey by The Associated Press.

But honours have been spread around to a number of movies. A lot could still change before the Oscars on March 7. In between, the Broadcast Film Critics Association, Hollywood Foreign Press Association, Screen Actors Guild, Producers Guild, Directors Guild and the Film Independent organization all dole out awards. A summary of some of the honours so far:

AVATAR: Picture: Golden Globe nomination (for drama), New York Film Critics Online; Director, James Cameron: Golden Globe nomination; Original Score, James Horner: Golden Globe nomination; Original Song, I See You by James Horner and Simon Franglen: Golden Globe

THE HURT LOCKER: Picture: National Society of Film Critics, New York Film Critics Circle, Los Angeles Film Critics Association, Boston Society of Film Critics, Golden Globe nomination (drama); Ensemble: Screen Actors Guild nomination; Director, Kathryn Bigelow: National Society of Film Critics, New York Film Critics Circle, Los Angeles Film Critics Association, Golden Globe nomination; Actor, Jeremy Renner: National Society of Film Critics, Screen Actors Guild nomination; Screenplay, Mark Boal: Golden Globe nomination; Top 10: American Film Institute

INGLORIOUS BASTERDS: Picture: Golden Globe nomination (drama); Ensemble: Screen Actors Guild nomination; Supporting Actor, Christoph Waltz: National Society of Film Critics (co-winner), New York Film Critics Circle, Los Angeles Film Critics Association, Golden Globe nomination, Screen Actors Guild nomination; Supporting Actress, Diane Kruger: Screen Actors Guild nomination; Director, Quentin Tarantino: Golden Globe nomination; Screenplay, Quentin Tarantino: Golden Globe nomination

INVICTUS: Actor, Morgan Freeman: National Board of Review (co-winner), Golden Globe nomination (drama), Screen Actors Guild nomination; Supporting Actor, Matt Damon: Golden Globe nomination, Screen Actors Guild nomination; Director, Clint Eastwood: National Board of Review, Golden Globe nomination

NINE: Picture: Golden Globe nomination (comedy or musical); Ensemble: Screen Actors Guild nomination; Actor, Daniel Day-Lewis: Golden Globe nomination (comedy or musical); Actress, Mario Cotillard: Golden Globe nomination (comedy or musical); Supporting Actress, Penelope Cruz: Golden Globe nomination, Screen Actors Guild nomination; Original Song, Cinema Italiano by Maury Yeston: Golden Globe nomination

PRECIOUS: Picture: Golden Globe nomination (drama); Ensemble: Screen Actors Guild nomination; Actress, Gabourney Sidibe: Golden Globe nomination (drama), Screen Actors Guild nomination; Supporting Actress, Mo'Nique: National Society of Film Critics, New York Film Critics Circle, Los Angeles Film Critics Association, Golden Globe nomination (drama), Screen Actors Guild nomination; Top 10: American Film Institute

A SINGLE MAN: Actor, Colin Firth: Golden Globe nomination (drama), Screen Actors Guild nomination; Supporting Actress, Julianne Moore: Golden Globe nomination; Original Score, Abel Korzeniowski: Golden Globe nomination; Top 10: American Film Institute

UP IN THE AIR: Picture: National Board of Review, Washington D.C. Area Film Critics Association, Golden Globe nomination (drama); Actor, George Clooney: National Board of Review (co-winner), New York Film Critics Circle, Golden Globe nomination (drama), Screen Actors Guild nomination; Supporting Actress, Anna Kendrick: National Board of Review, Golden Globe nomination, Screen Actors Guild nomination; Supporting Actress, Vera Farmiga: Golden Globe nomination, Screen Actors Guild nomination; Director, Jason Reitman: Golden Globe nomination; Screenplay, Jason Reitman and Sheldon Turner: National Board of Review, Los Angeles Film Critics Association; Top 10: American Film Institute

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fans pick winners of these awards

AWARDS The people who watch TV shows, buy movie tickets and follow their favourite artists online get to call the shots during the first show of Hollywood's awards season: the People's Choice Awards. The awards will be presented tonight at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles. Topping the nominees are vampire tales Twilight and True Blood. Fans cast more than 60 million votes to choose the winners in 30 categories including favourite action star, favourite on-screen team, favourite music collaboration and favourite animal show. Host Queen Latifah is set to welcome celebrities to the two-hour show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HollywoodRants
Steve Gow

Read the blog at metronews.ca/hollywoodrants

No comeback for Siegfried and Roy

Illusionists Siegfried and Roy have retired for good, but miss their fans. Siegfried Fischbacher is quoted in German magazine Neues Blatt as saying that "Roy and I miss our audience. But there will not be a comeback." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PERFORMANCE
You Fancy Yourself, about a young Icelandic girl in '50s Edinburgh, is being performed at Theatre Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson St. passemuraille.on.ca.

MUSIC
The U of T Battle of the Bands continues at Lee's Palace , 529 Bloor St. W. leespalace.com

IMPROVE
Students at the Second City Training Centre, 70 Peter St., present improv acts and sketches at 9 p.m.

COMEDIANS
Comedians Dan Ramos, Tim Gilbert, Brian Barlow, and Phil Moorhead will be among the performers at The Ossington, 61 Ossington Ave.

THEATRE
Tarragon Theatre presents a remount of the production East Of Berlin in its Extra Space theatre, 30 Bridgman St.

BOOKS
Yehuda Berg discussed his book The Power to Change Everything at Indigo, 55 Bloor St. W., at 7 p.m. chapters.indigo.ca.

Ke$ha's TiK ToK sets sales record

MUSIC Pop sensation Ke$ha has set a Canadian SoundScan record with hit single TiK ToK.

The single was downloaded 36,395 last week, which is a single week sales record, according to her label Sony Music.

Ke$ha's debut album Animal was released yesterday, but TiK ToK has been available since October. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Hayden goes Russian

Hayden Panettiere was spotted getting cosy with Russian boxer Wladmir Klitschko in Miami, Florida over the weekend. The Heroes star was in the city for Lady Gaga's New Year's Eve party at Fontainebleau Miami Beach. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Running to stay in the same place

Play takes funny look at serious subject

Nicholas Campbell is one of the stars of The Red Queen Effect, which examines worplace sexism.

JOHN KEILLOR
for Metro Canada

The Red Queen Effect is a brand new production that explores the corporate culture that shapes today's economy. In it, Alice steps through a mirror of normal life and into a psychotic Wonderland, a financial corporation that's full of glass ceilings for women. Grotesque games are played with client cash.

As Nicholas Campbell (Da Vinci's Inquest) explains, it's a very different world from his, or ours, and the ridiculous bits are perfect for generating laughs.

"This production finds ways to be funny about the business world, which is important if you want to send a message," says Campbell by phone. "To deal with serious issues, it's good to be funny."

Red Queen Effect

- The Red Queen Effect runs today through Jan. 17 at Factory Theatre Mainspace. Directed by Kelly Straughan

The title of the play refers to the Red Queen from Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking Glass from 1871.

In that famous novella, the Red Queen explains to Alice that to run is to stay in one place. To get anywhere else, you have to run twice as fast.

According to Campbell, corporate life really is like that, especially for women.

"In the real corporate world, women have to work twice as hard," explains Campbell, "but this play is instructive from both sides (of the mirror). "I more or less represent the real world, as far as integrating women into the work force. My character is the Chaney-type, a Bush-guy, a Vancouver business man."

Normally depicted as flinty-eyed men in suits all backstabbing one another, financial corporations are theatre's Unexplored Country, causing recessions and redistributing wealth as if by magic.

While Campbell is famous for playing a tough cop, the macho sexism that still permeates much of corporate culture is miles away from his own profession.

"Actors are really into equalization," says Campbell. "In England, you never refer to someone as an 'actress,' for example. Those people are models, or nude models, something more burlesque."

But it's not all about social justice, either. While The Red Queen Effect depicts unevenness in terms of gender parity in the corporate workplace, it also reveals Toronto's live theatre power.

"Toronto's exciting not only because there's an audience for live theatre, but the right kind of actors are here, too," Campbell says. "Toronto actors love the stage. But there's very little in the way of mainstream plays happening in, say, New York. Actors there want to go straight to films and television. But live theatre there is dead."

Biographies rule non-fiction shortlist

Books about Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Rene Levesque, newspaper baron William Randolph Hearst and a boy's rare affliction have been shortlisted for the Charles Taylor Prize for literary non-fiction.

- Ian Brown's The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Search For His Disabled Son chronicles his son Walker's struggles with a rare genetic mutation.
- Just Watch Me: The Life of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, 1968–2000, by John English, is the second volume in a two-part biography.
- Rene Levesque, by Daniel Poliquin, examines the life of a man who was seen in different parts of Canada as either a nation-building hero or a nation-destroying villain.
- And Kenneth Whyte's The Uncrowned King: The Sensational Rise of William Randolph Hearst explores the battle between American newspaper publishers Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer.

The winner of the Charles Taylor Prize, which will be announced Feb. 8, will receive $25,000. The other three finalists will receive $2,000 each.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Get out your glasses

ESPN promises 3-D in time for World Cup

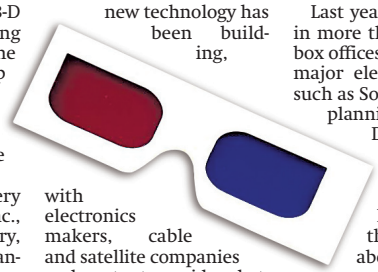
Two major cable networks — ESPN and Discovery — said yesterday they plan to start beaming 3-D entertainment into peoples' homes for the first time.

Riding what could be one of the next big waves in consumer electronics, ESPN said it will have a 3-D channel for broadcasting live sports events in time for the FIFA World Cup soccer match on June 11. The channel will not operate 24 hours a day, but plans at least 85 live events in its first year.

Separately, Discovery Communications Inc., which owns Discovery, TLC and other cable channels, said it will partner with Canada's Imax Corp. and Sony Corp. to bring out its own full-time 3-D network in 2011.

It's yet to be seen whether 3-D can make inroads in the home. For viewers it will likely mean buying new TV sets and wearing 3-D glasses.

But enthusiasm for the new technology has been building, with electronics makers, cable and satellite companies and content providers betting that they can get consumers to shell out for new TVs and channels. They hope 3-D blockbusters such as James Cameron's Avatar, still strong in its third week in theatres, can get enough people excited about characters popping off the screen.



Last year, 3-D films took in more than $1 billion at box offices worldwide. And major electronics makers such as Sony Corp. and are planning to market 3-D-capable TVs this year.

The trouble is going to be, how do you take the enthusiasm about what's happening in movie theatres and bring it into the home," said Greg Ireland, an analyst with the market research firm IDC.

Aside from getting people to wear funny-looking glasses at home, Ireland said the big challenge will be providing enough 3-D material to justify asking consumers to buy new sets.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Green Day's punk comes to Broadway

OPENING Get ready for Green Day's American Idiot to punk rock on Broadway. Producers Tom Hulce and Ira Pittelman said yesterday a stage adaptation of the group's Grammy-winning album will open April 20 at the St. James Theatre. Preview performances begin March 24.

A tale of disaffected suburban youth, the musical features lyrics by Green Day frontman Billie Joe Armstrong and a book by Armstrong and Michael Mayer, who also directed the show.

Farah's son sent back to L.A. jail

PROBATION Redmond O'Neal, the troubled son of Ryan O'Neal and the late Farrah Fawcett, was sent back to jail yesterday after a judge found he committed a drug-related probation violation.

O'Neal, 24, appeared at a brief hearing before Superior Court Judge Michael Tynan after being jailed on Dec. 29. O'Neal was released from jail last year after a series of drug-related arrests and told to attend a drug treatment program.

Another judge told him the program was his last chance to avoid up to six years in state prison. It was unclear what prompted Tynan to find O'Neal in violation of his probation, but the program required O'Neal to undergo frequent drug testing.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

CHARGES DROPPED A Los Angeles judge has dropped a misdemeanour battery charge against Gerard Butler. The charge was dismissed yesterday after the actor completed community service. Butler could have faced up to six months in jail if convicted. City prosecutors say the Scottish-born star of 300 had a run-in with a photographer Oct. 7 after leaving a premiere party for the film RocknRolla.

TV RATINGS At the holiday season's end, people returned to television for some football, some news and a few laughs. Three of the four most-watched programs in primetime television last week were on Sunday night, each distinctly different and on different networks: NBC's telecast of the NFL game between the New York Jets and Cincinnati Bengals, the return of Desperate Housewives on ABC and 60 Minutes on CBS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/6/10 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Flying Home		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		New Tricks		Human Edge "Second Sight"		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Glee "Mash Up" (HDTV)		The 36th Annual People's Choice Awards (HDTV) (Live)				News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Ugly Betty (HDTV) (N)		Look I Cook
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den (N)		Republic of Doyle (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		Mercy (HDTV) (N)		Modern Family	Cougar Town	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	*Ocean's Thirteen* ★★★ (2007, Comedy-Drama) George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon.						CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Teen Knight* (1998, Adventure) Kris Lemche, Benjamin Plener.				*Expect to Die* ★★ (1996, Action) David Bradley, Jalal Merhi.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	Music Speaks	I Get That a Lot (N)		Toronto Laughs (DVS)		The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	King Kaboom
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	I Get That a Lot (N)		The 36th Annual People's Choice Awards (HDTV) (Live)				News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Mercy (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Middle (N)	The Middle (N)	Modern Family	Cougar Town	(10:01) Ugly Betty (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: Next	TMZ (N)	The Middle (N)	The Middle (N)	*Shades of Black: The Conrad Black Story* (2006)				A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Glee "Mash Up" (HDTV)		Glee "Wheels" (HDTV)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Wait for God	The Human Spark (DVS)		This Emotional Life "Rethinking Happiness" (N) (DVS)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		Avalanche: The White Death		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		Game On: Video Games		Porn: Business of Pleasure		AOL Time Warner		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	World Cup Skiing FIS Alpine.		PartyPoker.net		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Philadelphia Flyers. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	Dangerous Drives (HDTV) (N)		Pass Time	Pass Time	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time
family	551	542	25	YTV	iCarly	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Dine With Me	Grocery Bag	The Restaurant	The Restaurant	Chef Worthy	Fear!-Kitchen	Grocery Bag
	570	580	29	MM	Make It or Break It		disBAND	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	My Date With...	disBAND	MuchOnDem
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Caterina e le Sue Figlie				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Devil's Diary* (2007, Suspense) Deanna Casaluce.				HawthoRNe "Pilot" (N)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Death at-Opera	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar "Threads"		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Ice Pilots NWT (N)		Nostradamus Effect (N)		Ice Road Truckers		Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Re-Inventors
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Just for Laughs Unleashed		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Agent-Agent	Intervention	Property Virgin	Unsellable	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Law & Order: SVU		The Office	The Office	*The Devil's Advocate* (1997, Suspense)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Waist Deep* ★ (2006, Action) Tyrese Gibson, Larenz Tate.				The Game	The Game	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "The Lie"		Supernatural		Supernatural		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	After	Cribs	Parent Control	The Real World "D.C."		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Rescue Ink		Hoarders (N)		Hoarders "Patty; Bill" (N)		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Spoiled Rotten
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Fresh-Anna	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Chopped (N)		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Open All Hours	Famous Families Singer Elvis Presley and his family.				Elvis Lives
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Family"		Missing Two ransom notes.		The Closer (Part 2 of 2)		Cold Case "Family"		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	*They Wait*	*The National Tree* (2009, Drama)			*Revolutionary Road* ★★★ (2008, Drama), Kathy Bates				*Donkey Punch*
	305	612	306	PIX	*Jerry Maguire*	(7:20) *Legends of the North* (1995)			*Cape Fear* ★★★ (1991, Suspense) Robert De Niro.				*Another Day*
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		Destroyed	Destroyed	License to Drill		Mayday "Gimli Glider"		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	Australia's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		LG Fashion Week		LG Fashion

critics' corner

Republic of Doyle
Gotta love working with Dad — just ask the Teutul boys of "American Chopper" fame. This new comedy-drama series follows the fortunes of Malachy and Jake Doyle (Sean McGinley, Allan Hawco), a father and son who work as private investigators in St. John's, Nfld. Dad's all business, Sonny's a bit of a rogue, but they get the job done. In the premiere, they try to help a friend accused of manslaughter who refuses to defend himself. 9 PM on CBC

Cape Fear
Martin Scorsese directed this 1991 remake of the 1962 thriller about an ex-con seeking revenge on the attorney who compromised his defense 14 years earlier. Scorsese's version, unlike the earlier work, blurs the lines between good and evil, evoking sympathy for the ex-con (Robert De Niro) and questioning the lawyer's (Nick Nolte) integrity. Gregory Peck and Robert Mitchum, stars of the 1962 version, have small roles. 9 PM on PIX

Ivanova discusses Wood relationship
Ekaterina Ivanova, the 21-year-old former waitress who dated 62-year-old Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood for 18 months, is talking about the relationship. In an interview with British tabloid The Sun, Ivanova calls Wood an "evil goblin king." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Did a friend rob her?

BFFS NO MORE Sounds like Lindsay Lohan's new year has gotten off on the wrong foot, usmagazine.com reports.

While celebrating 2010 on the island of St. Barth's, the 23-year-old star discovered that she was ripped off by her longtime best friend and sidekick Patrick (Pootie) Aufdenkamp.

A friend close to Lohan tells usmagazine.com, "Patrick stole Lindsay's sketches for her new 6126 clothing line." WWD reported Dec. 30 that Lohan's 6126 leggings line would be expanded to become a full clothing collection for fall 2010; her role as artistic advisor for fashion house Emanuel Ungaro, despite a rocky start, is also ongoing.

Lohan tells usmagazine.com that Aufdenkamp has been her "best friend" since she was 16. He has frequently been photographed with the actress, and was present at many meetings related to her new fashion line.

"He is now running off trying to do his own line," a Lohan pal says.

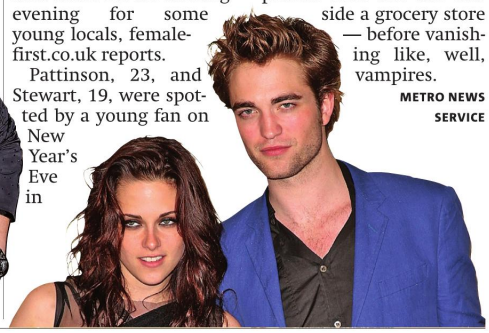
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ringing in the new year

A REMOTE CELEBRATION Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart quietly welcomed 2010 together on an island off the south coast of England — a visit that made for an exciting evening for some young locals, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Pattinson, 23, and Stewart, 19, were spotted by a young fan on New Year's Eve in Ventnor, a seaside resort on the Isle of Wight, 80 miles south of Pattinson's family home in west London. The New Moon costars happily posed for photos with the fan outside a grocery store — before vanishing like, well, vampires.

METRO NEWS SERVICE



Celebrity tweets

Matthew Perry wants to see more modesty in the world, Serena Williams turns to her Twitter followers for culinary advice and Danny DeVito really enjoyed Avatar.

• @langford-perry Why do men in steam rooms insist on not using a towel? Cover yourself up sweaty fat naked man!

• @serenajwilliams How do I make beans?? My mom is not answering her phone!! Hurry!! I just boil them for like what 3 hrs??

• @Danny_DeVito Great movie. IMAX in Burbank. Smaller screen but great picture. Like to bang one of those ten foot broads!

METRO NEWS SERVICE

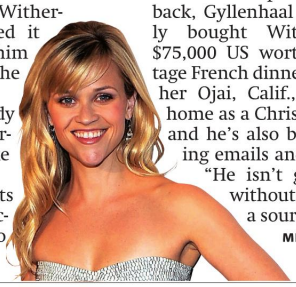
Winning back Witherspoon

SHE'S WORTH IT While Reese Witherspoon called it quits with him because she reportedly wasn't ready for marriage, Jake Gyllenhaal still wants her back, according to In Touch.

In an attempt to win her back, Gyllenhaal reportedly bought Witherspoon $75,000 US worth of vintage French dinnerware for her Ojai, Calif., vacation home as a Christmas gift, and he's also been sending emails and flowers.

"He isn't giving up without a fight," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Jolie kids inherit six-figures

NEW TRUST FUND Three of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's children were left a handsome six-figure sum by the actress' late mother, according to documents filed in Los Angeles Superior Court last week, usmagazine.com reports.

Actress Marcheline Bertrand — who died in 2007 after a cancer battle — gave Maddox, 8, Zahara, 6, and Shiloh, 3, each $100,000 US in a new trust fund. The three cannot have access to the money until they turn 25.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Winehouse dad discourages union

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM? Amy Winehouse's reconciliation with ex-husband Blake Fielder-Civil seems to be going well, and her father isn't thrilled about it, according to Closer magazine. "I'd be devastated," he says of the possibility of the two getting remarried. "I'm worried about the situation and I'm going to discourage her in every way I can. Their relationship was a disaster, it was destructive and they're lucky that one of them didn't die."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Duchovney's first erotic experience

I HEART MY TEACHER Professed sex addict David Duchovney claims he got off to an early start. The Californication star tells Germany's Tele 5 that he had his first erotic experience at age six, thanks to a crush he had on his first grade teacher. "I always ran around extra wildly, so that she had to catch and grab me," Duchovney says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Martin turns to social media to support causes

HUMANITARIAN ON THE RISE Last month Ricky Martin took to his website to condemn international hate crimes and call for tolerance. Now the singer is taking to Twitter to drum up support for his next venture — donating blood, The Advocate reports.

The magazine reports the singer, who it notes has declined to talk in interviews about his personal life but has become increasingly vocal about his support for gay rights and causes, tweeted on Sunday: "i want to donate blood, have you ever?"

Blood donation by men who have sex with men has been banned in the United States since 1985, adds the magazine.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Carey joins hubby at club

COUPLES NIGHT OUT After performing at Atlantic City's Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa on Saturday night, Mariah Carey kept the party going until the wee hours, joining husband Nick Cannon as he deejayed in club mur.mur, people.com reports.

"Security literally cleared a path for her to walk through," says a witness. "She was surrounded by handlers."

Carey spent her night singing along "to just about every song" — including her own, Emotions — and happily posed and waved for fans while giggling with her dancers.

When Cannon's set wrapped around 2 a.m., Carey joined him in the deejay booth to close out the evening

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Today: Partly cloudy -4° / -8°
Thursday: Variable -4° / -12°
Friday: Flurries 40% -7° / -15°

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Take Five

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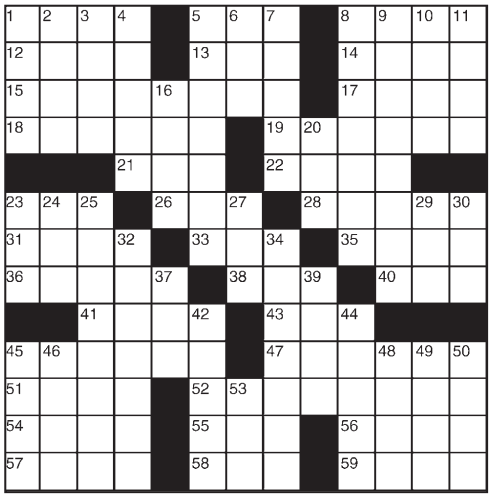

ACROSS

1 Now, on a memo
5 Early bird?
8 Oodles
12 Undraped
13 Ultra-modernist
14 "Forget it!"
15 Attack without restraint
17 Actor Rip
18 Long step
19 Ducklings' pops
21 Meadow
22 Ganges wrap
23 Curved line
26 Billboards
28 Male singing voice
31 Nitwit
33 Droop
35 Go nowhere
36 Capital of Jordan
38 Drops on the lawn
40 Tramcar load
41 The era of Shak.
43 Catch red-handed
45 Ornamental grating
47 Washington neighbor
51 Stereo counterpart
52 Meet
54 Female singing voice
55 "Norma —"
56 Feline, to Francisco
57 Old Dodge model
58 MGM motto start
59 Furry sci-fi critter

DOWN

1 Picnic invaders
2 Tallow
3 Hebrew month
4 Danger
5 Groups of nine
6 Comprehend
7 Merchandise
8 Brightest star in Scorpio
9 Investigate
10 Shrek is one
11 Oodles
16 Thought
20 Snitch
23 Lawyers' org.
24 Data storage site
25 Inherit
27 Despondent
29 Rowing need
30 "Catcher in the —"
32 Increase rapidly
34 "Mapped" hereditary matter
37 Goose egg
39 Distort
42 Marty, in "Madagascar"
44 Ecru
45 Fed
46 Portrayal
48 Rodents do it
49 "Beetle Bailey" dog
50 Corner
53 Eg. and Syr., once

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	6						1	
8				3				6
3			6		7			5
		4	7		6	9		
				2				
		2	1		3	7		
9			8		5			2
1				7				8
	3						4	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

8	9	4	1	3	2	5	7	6
6	2	3	5	7	4	9	1	8
5	7	1	6	9	8	2	4	3
1	8	2	3	4	6	7	9	5
9	4	5	2	8	7	3	6	1
3	6	7	9	5	1	8	2	4
4	5	6	7	2	3	1	8	9
7	1	9	8	6	5	4	3	2
2	3	8	4	1	9	6	5	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Egg and Bacon Spaghetti

INGREDIENTS:

14 oz (400 g) spaghetti
3 1/2 oz (100 g) frozen peas
3 1/2 oz (100 g) bacon strips, cut into 1/2-in. (1 cm) pieces
6 scallions, sliced
1/2 cup (125 mL) grated Parmesan cheese
4 eggs
6 3/4 tbsp (100 mL) ricotta cheese

METHOD:

1. Cook pasta according to package instructions. Add peas for final 3 minutes of cooking, returning water to boil.
2. Put bacon pieces into frying pan and dry-fry over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until lightly browned and crispy. Drain off excess fat from pan, leaving about 1 tsp (5 mL). Add scallions and cook gently until just soft.
3. Put Parmesan cheese into bowl with eggs and ricotta cheese. Season with ground black pepper and beat with fork.
4. Drain spaghetti and peas; return to hot, empty pot with bacon and scallions. Off heat, add egg mixture and toss thoroughly; eggs will thicken in residual heat for creamy sauce. Turn into serving bowl and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
It's highly unlikely that you will be able to compromise so go your own way and do your own thing. You don't need other people to hold your hand.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You've got to make changes and you've got to make them now. With Pluto strong in your chart you won't find it hard to be ruthless.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You want to do something dramatic but what are your motives? Is there something specific you wish to achieve or do you just want to make a noise?

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If someone you love gives you a hard time about something today don't take it personally. Most likely they are going through a phase.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You would be wise not to force others to make changes that may not suit their needs. A more moderate course will work better for everyone.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Do you follow your instincts and put yourself at odds with majority opinion? Be true to what you believe. Otherwise, why believe anything?

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Changes on the career front will work in your favor over the next few days, so be ready to move when the opportunity arises.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Difficult aspects to Mars over the next few days warn you would be wise not to push your luck, especially when dealing with authority figures.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You may have to reveal something about yourself that you were hoping to keep secret but it would have come out sooner or later.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
There is so much determination and intensity about you at the moment that no obstacle can stop you from reaching your goal.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Keep reminding yourself that you have nothing to prove. Keep reminding yourself that who you are is who you are meant to be.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There may be a thousand and one things that need doing but don't try to do them all on your own. Get help.

Appy New Year!

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This day in history

1205: Philip of Swabia becomes King of the Romans.
1540: King Henry VIII of England marries Anne of Cleves.
1893: The Washington National Cathedral is chartered by Congress. The charter is signed by President Benjamin Harrison.
1929: Mother Teresa arrives in Calcutta to begin a her work amongst India's poorest and diseased people.
1941: President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivers his Four Freedoms Speech in the State of the Union Address.
1994: Nancy Kerrigan is clubbed in the knee at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Detroit.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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SE model shown with Podium Edition Package††

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AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION	Standard	Optional	Optional
HEAD CURTAIN SIDE IMPACT AIRBAGS	Standard	Not Available	Standard
AIR CONDITIONING	Standard	Optional	Optional
16" ALUMINUM WHEELS	Standard	15" Steel	15" Steel
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY	Standard	Not Available	Not Available
POWER DOOR LOCKS	Standard	Standard	Not Available
HP / TORQUE	155/150	138/150	140/128
POWERTRAIN WARRANTY	5-year/160,000 km	5-year/100,000 km	5-year/100,000 km

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INCLUDES $3,975 CASH CREDIT♦

NEW $96‡ AT 4.09%

BI-WEEKLY/84 MONTHS • $0 DOWN PAYMENT
TAXES NOT INCLUDED

Offer Includes $1,000 Holiday Bonus. ♦♦

Offers Include:

Freight	$1,325
Air Tax	$100
Environmental Handling Fee	$29
Vehicle Registration	$10
OMVIC Fee	$5

E/F HWY: 5.8L/100 km (49 mpg) CITY: 8.2L/100 km (34 mpg)Δ

INCLUDES • **Automatic Transmission • Air Conditioning • Power Windows and Door Locks** • Power Sunroof • Remote Keyless Entry System • Cruise Control • OnStar® with 1-year of the Safe & Sound Plan¥

★★★★★ FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING©

2010 PONTIAC VIBE

$19,063* PURCHASE PRICE

INCLUDES $2,350 CASH CREDIT♦

NEW $121‡ AT 4.09%

BI-WEEKLY/84 MONTHS • $0 DOWN PAYMENT
TAXES NOT INCLUDED

Offer Includes $1,000 Holiday Bonus. ♦♦

Offers Include:

Freight	$1,325
Air Tax	$100
Tax for Fuel Conservation	$75
Environmental Handling Fee	$29
Vehicle Registration	$10
OMVIC Fee	$5

E/F HWY: 6.2L/100 km (46 mpg) CITY: 7.8L/100 km (36 mpg)Δ

INCLUDES • 132 HP 1.8L 4-cyl. VVTi Engine • **StabiliTrak® Electronic Stability Control System • Air Conditioning with Clean Air Filter • Power Windows, Door Locks and Mirrors** • 60/40 Split-Folding Rear Seatbacks • Driver and Front-passenger Frontal Air Bags • Head Curtain Side-impact Air Bags • Auxiliary Audio Input Jack • Remote Keyless Entry System • Cruise Control • 4-wheel Disc Brakes with ABS and Brake Assist • OnStar® with 1-year of the Safe & Sound Plan¥

HOLIDAY GIFT

OR ASK ABOUT 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡‡

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For the latest information, visit us at pontiac.gm.ca, drop by your local Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ♦$3,350/$1,350/$2,975 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit available on 2010 G5 SE/2010 Vibe/2009 G3 Wave SE reflected in offers in this advertisement. ♦♦$1,000 holiday bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Offer available on all 2009/2010 Chevrolet Pontiac Buick GMC and Hummer models excluding all Saturn and Saab models, Camaro, Express/Savana, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks. *Offer applies to the purchase of 2010 Pontiac (G5 SE Coupe or Sedan R7C/Vibe FWD R7A) and 2009 Pontiac G3 Wave SE 1SN. Example: $10,000 at 4.09% for 84 months, the monthly payment is $137.10. Cost of borrowing is $1,516.40, total obligation is $11,516.40. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Taxes are not included for bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $16,913/$19,063/$15,147 with $0 down payment. ♦♦♦/‡Freight ($1,350/$1,325/$1,325), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees are included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, administration fees and applicable taxes are not included. Offers apply as indicated to the purchase or finance of 2010 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealer order or trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. **At some dealers, the vehicles in this advertisement are only available with additional features of glass etching (up to $424), locking wheel nuts (up to $150), nitrogen in tires (up to $399), GM tire protection plan (up to $220), mud flaps (up to $120), box liner (up to $325), Walk Away Insurance (up to $389) and/or Drive Green Program ($199) which have additional costs. ‡‡Financing on approved GMAC credit only, 0% purchase financing for 36 months available on 2009 and 2010 Pontiac G3 Wave/G5/Vibe. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 36 months, the monthly payment is $277.78. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. ΔBased on 2009 Natural Resources Canada Fuel Consumption Guide. 2010 ratings based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ¥Excludes other GM models. ◊US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. 2009 Pontiac G3 Wave received a 5-star Rating for the driver and front passenger in the Frontal Crash Test. ††Pontiac G5 SE Podium Edition, MSRP $19,925. OnStar® services require vehicle electrical system (including battery), wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. Subscription Service Agreement required. Call 1-888-4ONSTAR (1-888-466-7827) or visit onstar.ca for OnStar's Terms and Conditions, Privacy Statement and details and system limitations. †Subject to Vehicle Redemption Allowances. Visit thegmcard.ca for more details including terms and conditions that apply to The GM Card Earnings and Redemption Program. The Toronto-Dominion Bank and its affiliates are not responsible for the GM Card Earnings and Redemption Allowance Program. ®Registered trade-mark of General Motors Corporation/Used under license. TD logo is a trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

MAKE A RESOLUTION TO STAND OUT.

MAKE A RESOLUTION TO SAVE WITH GREAT OFFERS PLUS UP TO $1,000 IN CASH CREDITS.*

2010 SOUL

LEASE FOR **$199** PER MO. 48 MOS. AT LEASE APR*** **3.9%** $1,880 DOWN PAYMENT **PLUS CASH CREDIT**

- 1.6L, 4-cylinder 16-valve CVVT, or available 2.0L, 16-valve CVVT
- 6 airbags, and anti-whiplash active front headrests
- *Bluetooth*® hands-free cell phone capability§
- Steering wheel-mounted audio controls
- Power locks, windows and heated mirrors

HWY: 6.3 L/100KM 45 MPG CITY: 7.7 L/100KM 37 MPG* | TOP SAFETY PICK 2010 | 2009+ Kelley Blue Book® Coolest New Cars Under $18,000

Vehicle may not be available as shown.

2010 FORTE EX SHOWN

2010 FORTE

$14,745† CASH PURCHASE PRICE OR **0%** FINANCE APR†† **PLUS CASH CREDIT**

- 2.0L, 4-cylinder 156 HP engine, or available 2.4L, 4-cylinder 173 HP engine
- *Bluetooth*® hands-free cell phone capability§
- Steering wheel-mounted audio controls
- Power locks, windows and heated mirrors

HWY: 5.8 L/100KM 49 MPG CITY: 8.3 L/100KM 34 MPG* | Crash Test Rating NHTSA - Frontal and side impacts+ | NADA GUIDES .com Car of the Year+

2010 FORTE KOUP SX SHOWN

2010 FORTE KOUP

LEASE FOR **$199** PER MO. 60 MOS. AT LEASE APR*** **3.9%** $2,940 DOWN PAYMENT **PLUS CASH CREDIT**

- 2.0L, 4-cylinder 156 HP engine, or available 2.4L, 4-cylinder 173 HP engine
- Electronic Stability & traction control
- *Bluetooth*® hands-free cell phone capability§
- Heated front seats and side mirrors
- Remote keyless entry with power windows

HWY: 5.8 L/100KM 49 MPG CITY: 8.3 L/100KM 34 MPG*

2010 RIO EX CONVENIENCE SHOWN

2010 RIO

OWN IT FROM **$72** BI-WEEKLY** FOR 60 MOS. AT **3.9%** FINANCE APR **PLUS CASH CREDIT**

• AMORT. OVER 84 MOS. • **$0 DOWN PAYMENT**
• $3,610 REMAINING BALANCE

- 1.6L, 4-cylinder CVVT engine
- AM/FM/CD/MP3 stereo with USB and AUX audio inputs
- *Bluetooth*® hands-free cell phone capability§
- 6-way adjustable driver's seat with tilt-adjustable steering column

HWY: 5.8 L/100KM 49 MPG CITY: 7.1 L/100KM 40 MPG* | greenercars.org

5 Year Warranty WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.
*5-YEAR/100,000 KM WORRY-FREE COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY
*5-YEAR/100,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY
*5-YEAR/100,000 KM EXTRA CARE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
*NO DEDUCTIBLE CHARGE

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

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OFFERS END FEBRUARY 1, 2010. VISIT YOUR LOCAL KIA RETAILERS OR **KIA.CA**

"Up to $1000" Cash Credit values of $300, $500 and $1000 applied as a cash credit towards the listed MSRP at time of purchase. $300 cash credit available on 2010 Forte sedan, 2010 Forte Koup, 2010 Rio/Rio 5 and 2010 Soul. $500 cash credit available on 2010 Rondo, 2010 Magentis, and 2010 Sportage. $1000 cash credit available on 2010MY Borrego and 2010MY Sedona. ††0% financing available on 2010 Forte, 2010 Rio/Rio5 for up to 36 months on approved credit (O.A.C.). Cash back amount varies by model and trim. Cash back amount varies by model and trim. **Bi-weekly finance payment for 2010 Rio EX (RO542A) based on an MSRP of $13,695 is $72 with an APR of 3.9% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $3,610 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455 excluded. ***Monthly lease payment for 2010 Soul (SO550A) / 2010 Forte Koup (FO52IA) is $199 for 48/60 months at 3.9% lease APR with a $1,880/$2,940 down payment. Total lease obligation is $11,455/$14,909 with the option to purchase at end of term for $5,882/$5,663. Delivery and destination fees and PPSA fees excluded. Lease has 20,000 km/year allowance (other packages available) and $0.10/km for excess. †Cash purchase price for 2010 Forte (FO540A) is $14,745 and includes a cash credit of $950 based on an MSRP of $15,695. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. Other lease and finance options also available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. >Highway/city fuel consumption for 2010 Rio EX (RO542A) is 5.8 L (49 MPG)/7.1 L (40 MPG); 2010 Soul 1.6L MT (SO550A) is 6.3 L (45 MPG)/7.7 L (37 MPG); 2010 Forte EX (FO540A)is 5.8 L / (49 MPG)/8.1 L (34 MPG); 2010 Forte Koup EX (FO52IA) (is 5.8 L / (49 MPG)/8.1 L (34 MPG). The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. +2010 Soul awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. Visit kbb.com for full details. The 2010 Kia Forte was awarded Car of the Year by NADAguides.com. To learn more please visit www.NADAguides.com. Green Score for the 2009 Kia Rio based on specification within its segment. Refer to GreenerCars.org for full details. NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. §The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends February 1, 2010. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.